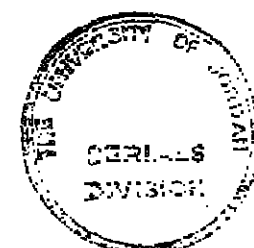


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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Princess Basma meets Belgian queen

NEW YORK (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Monday discussed with Queen Fabiola of Belgium the role of the advisory group in preparing for the fourth world conference on women, which will be held in Beijing in September. Princess Basma and Queen Fabiola also discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of women and development and the Jordanian-Belgian coordination in the conference. Princess Basma also called for crystallising a mechanism to translate the conference's plan of action into practical steps. Addressing the advisory group session, which was opened by the United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Princess Basma said success of the conference will be determined by its ability to come up with concrete and practical recommendations and decisions capable of advancing women's status, broadening their participation in public life, and enabling them to assume leading positions.

Zanoun urges Arafat to stay away from panel

BEIRUT (AFP) — A senior Palestinian official has called on Yasser Arafat not to interfere with a new committee monitoring the autonomy talks with Israel, Al Hayat newspaper reported on Tuesday. "I wish that comrade Arafat stay away from this committee to allow Mahmoud Abbas to take charge," said Salim Zanoun, head of the Palestine National Council (PNC), its parliament-in-exile. Mr. Abbas, an architect of the self-rule deal with Israel, said Monday he was undecided on whether to head the committee after he was offered the post at a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee over the weekend. Mr. Zanoun told the London-based Arabic daily that Mr. Abbas was opposed to heading a committee which included Mr. Arafat as a member "because the PLO leader would in fact be the chairman of such a committee." Mr. Abbas signed for the PLO the 1993 declaration of principles on autonomy with Israel. He used to chair the committee monitoring the bilateral talks in Washington. But he later joined the critics of negotiations with Israel and has remained in Tunis since the Palestinian self-rule authority was set up in Gaza last May, refusing to join Mr. Arafat's cabinet.

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Kabariti holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Tuesday met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak and discussed with him issues listed on the agenda of the Arab League meeting which will open in Cairo Wednesday. Mr. Kabariti, who arrived in Cairo earlier in the day to attend the meeting, also discussed with Sheikh Mohammad Arab issues of common interest and bilateral relations. The foreign minister also met with member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Mahmoud Abbas and discussed with him developments on the Palestinian arena. Discussions at the meeting also focused on progress of the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations and bilateral relations.

Kozyrev to visit Mideast in March

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev will visit Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Israel on a four-to-five-day trip starting on March 28, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday. Spokesman Grigory Karasin told reporters Russia wanted to help the Middle East peace process move forward. He gave no details.

Dini wins vote

ROME (AP) — Premier Lamberto Dini won a confidence vote in the senate on Tuesday to push through a deficit-cutting package that was at the centre of a fierce political showdown. Mr. Dini linked the survival of his two-month-old government to the fiscal measures, warning critics they risked driving Italy to an unprecedented financial crisis. Mr. Dini narrowly won a confidence vote in the lower house of parliament last week. Tuesday's vote was 176-84.

53 security men slain in Yemen

ADEN (AP) — Fifty-three security officers have been killed in Yemen over the past two months in fighting a worsening crime wave, the deputy interior minister said Tuesday. Hussein Mohammad Arab told the Associated Press that 66 others were wounded in gunbattles with criminals and other armed fugitives. Yemen, one of the poorest states in the Arab World, is a tribal mountainous country of 14 million people.

Israelis rocket house in S. Lebanon

NABATYEH (R) — An Israeli helicopter on Monday night rocketed a house north of Nabatieh, a town in the South Lebanon occupation zone, security sources said on Tuesday. They said the helicopter fired two rockets before midnight into the house in the village of Yohmour. No one was hurt in the helicopter raid, which came hours after two Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded in Amoun area just inside the zone and near Yohmour when guerrillas hit their patrol with anti-tank rockets and machinegun fire.

Sudan ready to send hijackers to Ethiopia

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan announced Monday it would comply with any request by Ethiopia for five of its citizens who hijacked an airliner last week, a step that contradicts reported promises to the hijackers. The Boeing 737 was seized on an Ethiopian domestic flight Friday and forced to land in the Sudanese city of Al Obeid, 500 kilometres west of Khartoum. The hijackers surrendered Saturday after negotiations, freeing the 85 passengers and seven crew. As part of the deal that ended the standoff, Sudanese reports said, the government agreed to ensure the hijackers' safety and help them seek asylum in Sweden.

King: Jordan opted for peace for sake of people

Gore reaffirms U.S. commitment to helping Jordan meet its needs

Full debt forgiveness definite, says vice-president Other issues to be discussed during King's visit

By Ayman Al Safadi
and
P.V. Virekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to securing comprehensive peace in the Middle East and its quest for a qualitative change in the life of the region's people and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore reiterated his country's determination to honouring its promises of support for the Kingdom.

Mr. Gore, addressing a joint press conference with the King after a round of talks at the Basman Palace, also said Jordan's specific economic and defence needs would be discussed during the King's visit to Washington next week.

The King said Jordan sought peace with Israel because of its commitment to

secure a better future for the region and its people, but he stressed that peace must bring about a qualitative change in people's life.

Describing Jordan's move to make peace with Israel as a bold, courageous step, Mr. Gore, who arrived here Tuesday afternoon for an overnight visit, said: "I can assure you" that the U.S. is capable of meeting its commitments to the Kingdom.

Earlier, in a speech at the Royal Cultural Centre, Mr. Gore said President Bill Clinton was committed to forgiving all of Jordan's official debts to the U.S. and also to meeting the Kingdom's defence needs.

"The U.S. will demonstrate by its actions that we are at Jordan's side — now and in the future," he said. "You have my pledge... and that of the president that we will fulfil our commitment on debt forgiveness and our

pledge to help Jordan meet its defence needs."

"In addition (President Clinton) will continue to urge other countries to relieve Jordan's debt burdens," he said.

Mr. Gore told the press conference that discussions with members of the U.S. Congress had convinced him full debt forgiveness for Jordan was definite.

The debt relief became an issue two weeks ago after the U.S. House of Representatives slashed to \$50 million an administration request for \$275 million in expenditure to write off up to \$488 million in the Kingdom's official debts to the U.S.

The administration worked with influential senators and produced another package that was passed by the Senate last week. The package, when approved in a conference of the House of Representatives and Senate before the end of the month, would

allow the full write-off.

In his comments at the press conference, King Hussein said it was important for the U.S. to honour its promises to the Kingdom because it is a partner in the Middle East peace process and because "people need to see change."

"The U.S. realises, as we do (and) so does Israel, that peace must ensure a change in the quality of life of the people," the King said.

The King said he was "fully satisfied" with what he had learnt about the debt forgiveness issue and that his talks with Mr. Gore covered bilateral relations, and the state of peace between Jordan and Israel after the two countries signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 and other tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

"We hope to be a model," said the King. "We are proud of our democracy, plural-



His Majesty King Hussein receives U.S. Vice-President Al Gore at Basman Palace in Amman on Tuesday, shortly after Mr. Gore's arrival here for a visit as part of a Middle East tour (photo by Yousef Allan)

ism... we are optimistic about peace."

The King stressed Jordan would continue its pursuit for comprehensive peace in the region and Mr. Gore said the U.S. was equally committed.

Mr. Gore said he was looking forward to the King's visit to the U.S. next week for "important" consultations and said security in the region depended on Jordan's ability to meet its defence needs, the

momentum in the peace process and progress on the other tracks.

Specifically, he said, his talks with the King covered Jordan's defence needs and that U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry would discuss the issue in detail during the Monarch's visit to the U.S.

He said Jordan was a leader in the effort for regional cooperation and spoke of plans to set up a regional

bank for cooperation and development, which is expected to be announced at the Amman economic summit to be held in October.

On the dispute between Egypt and Israel over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Mr. Gore said the U.S. believed in the universal application of the treaty — meaning an uncon-

(Continued on page 7)

Israel bars Gaza vehicles after finding truck-bomb

Rabin said to delay prisoner release

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Police banned Gaza Strip cars from Israel Tuesday after two militants arrested with a truck rigged to explode confessed to police that they were planning a suicide attack in Israel.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat condemned the militants, but Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered a meeting of a ministerial committee to discuss Palestinian prisoner releases be postponed, Israel Radio said.

Israel Radio said Mr. Rabin called off the meeting, which had been scheduled to convene on Wednesday, because he was bitter over Mr. Arafat's failure to crack down on militants who oppose peace with the Jewish state.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, said he knew of no such planned meeting. Police said the suspects were members of Hamas, which has been responsible

for several deadly suicide attacks in Israel in recent months.

One of the men, Wissam Frieihat, 22, has been linked to Emad Akei, founder of Hamas' military wing, Izzedine Al Qassam, Palestinian sources said. Akei was killed by Israeli undercover troops as he walked out of Mr. Frieihat's Gaza City home in 1993.

The second suspect was identified as Reyad Sabri, 41, also of Gaza City and a recent member of Hamas. They told interrogators Tuesday they had planned a suicide attack in the town of Beer-sheba.

Israel's police minister, Moshe Shahal, said the aborted attack was further proof that the only way to foil suicide missions was to keep most Palestinians out of Israel.

Mr. Shahal has proposed a buffer zone of fences, electronic surveillance and beefed-up patrols along

Israel's frontier with the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Without separation (between Israel and the Palestinians), we cannot provide reasonable security to the residents of Israel," Mr. Shahal said on Israeli Radio.

But Health Minister Ephraim Sneh told the Haaretz newspaper: "It's an illusion to believe that separating Israel from the Palestinian territories will prevent attacks."

Mr. Arafat rejected the bombing attempt and said such attacks would harm Palestinians by preventing them from working in Israel.

"I do not agree with such operations, which will prevent workers from winning their livelihood," Mr. Arafat said in a speech to supporters in the Gaza Strip. "Making peace is the decision of the people here."

Two policemen discovered

(Continued on page 7)

Oman to allow El Al overflights — Beilin

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel has agreed in principle to a deal with Oman allowing flights by its national airline El Al to cross Omani airspace, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Tuesday.

"We have agreed in principle that El Al will be allowed to fly over Oman and use flight corridors in Omani airspace," he told journalists after a meeting in Cairo with the Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi.

Details of the agreement will be concluded later, he added on his way in to talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Beilin said of his meeting with Mr. Ben Alawi that "the obstacles of the past are on their way to disappearing."

"We have also agreed on a visit by Israeli businessmen to Oman and on cooperation between the two countries in the area of water desalination," he said.

There has been "perceptible advancement in relations with Oman, despite the fact that there has of yet been no decision to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries," Beilin added.

Each meeting of this sort constitutes a step forward and eventually it will end with the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Mr. Beilin said he recognised "the willingness of Oman and some Arab countries to lift the direct boycott of Israel, but there is not yet an official decision."

The decision by the Gulf states last September to lift the indirect economic boycott "proves that the direct boycott is on the way to disappearing," he added.

Mr. Beilin denied Egypt was seeking to slow down normalisation between Israel and Arab states. Cairo "favourably welcomes this sort of meeting," he said.

"Egypt has no interest in impeding the establishment of relations between Israel and another Arab state. To the contrary, it can help advance this sort of effort."

The meeting came just hours before Mr. Ben Alawi's participation in a gathering of the eight signatory countries of the Damascus Declaration. The Omani minister will also attend a ministerial council session for the fiftieth anniversary of the Arab League on Wednesday and Thursday.

Israel-Syria talks resume in U.S. amid tight secrecy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli and Syrian representatives for a second day Tuesday were discreetly discussing security arrangements that would come in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights.

An Israeli diplomat speaking privately said Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and his Syrian counterpart Walid Muallem were to meet again Tuesday, but declined to say where the talks would be held and who else would take part.

The State Department was no less tight-lipped. One U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "We don't want to focus on the talks, for a better chance of success."

But the special coordinator for the Middle East, Dennis Ross, likely will take part in the talks, a reliable source said.

The Israeli diplomat refused to comment on the negotiations which have made little progress in three years on the issue of an

Israeli pullout from the Golan.

The resumption of negotiations in Washington after a three-month lag was made possible by Secretary of State Warren Christopher's last Mideast trip. He managed to get the main players to agree to discuss security arrangements.

According to U.S. officials these talks in Washington also are aimed at paving the way for the trip Mr. Ross is to make to the region in two to three weeks.

In an interview published Monday Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Syria had refused to cut its armed forces as Israel proposed.

"The reduction of the armed forces cannot be subject to discussions," Mr. Khaddam told the London-based Mideast Mirror.

"We refuse to put this issue on the negotiating table," Mr. Khaddam said.

Israeli officials have said the talks on security arrangements would focus on limiting armed forces and deploy-

ment of international observers on the Golan. Mr. Khaddam said such a deployment had not yet been discussed.

But he added that Syria would prefer "observers linked to the U.N. Security Council, deployed on both sides of the border in an equitable and balanced way."

He said it was up to Israel whether the two countries would be able to sign a peace treaty before the U.S. and Israeli elections take place next year.

A government Syrian newspaper said Damascus was in no hurry to conclude a deal that does not meet its demands.

"The elections would never be a factor of pressure on Syria. The elections should be an incentive for both the American administration and the Israeli government to take serious steps to achieve real peace," the Tishrin daily said.

It said Israel's argument that time was running out because of the elections was an attempt to blackmail Syria which could backfire.

Albright sees new Iraqi threat

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Baghdad would swiftly resume arms production if international sanctions were ended, and could build a nuclear weapon in a few years, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright warned Tuesday.

Ms. Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, citing U.S. intelligence estimates, that Iraq was pressing on to "rebuilding its infrastructure of mass destruction."

She released reconnaissance photographs that showed the Al Kindi missile research and development centre, which has been rebuilt since it was seriously damaged in the Gulf war.

The photos, which also have been presented to the U.N. Security Council, also show the Habbaniyah II facility Ms. Albright said was used to build chemical weapons prior to the war.

She said the images showed Iraq had rebuilt the main production building and chlorine plant, adding production lines for phenol and ferric chloride.

Israel to respond to Cairo NPT proposals

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel will respond to Egyptian proposals aimed at solving a row over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Tuesday.

"We are preparing our answer and it will be delivered. I can't tell you exactly the date, but of course we usually answer letters that are sent to us," he told journalists after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Musa aluded on Monday to new Egyptian proposals given to Israel concerning the NPT but did not provide details of their content.

Egypt has refused to agree to an indefinite extension of the treaty, to be discussed at the United Nations in April, unless Israel commits to joining the treaty.

"We dedicated much time to this issue," during Tuesday's talks, Mr. Beilin said.

"It was very important for us to understand exactly where Egypt stands today. We are on the eve of the Arab League meeting of foreign ministers and this issue will be raised there too," he added.

"We cannot sign this treaty as long as signatories of this treaty breached the treaty it-

self," he said, citing the case of Iraq which before the 1991 Gulf war had refused international observers access to its nuclear facilities.

"What we can do is to speak about a nuclear free zone. It was an idea of (Egyptian President Hosni) Mubarak. But it can be done only once we have peace with our neighbours and peace in the Middle East," he added.

Mr. Beilin said he hoped the two countries understood each other better and the dispute would "not be an obstacle in bilateral relations" between the countries which signed peace in 1979.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel meanwhile called on Egypt to approve the extension of the treaty.

"We discussed the issue of the NPT and I once again explained the German position. We, of course, would very much like to see Egypt accept the extension of NPT," Mr. Kinkel said in a press conference.

After talks with Mr. Musa after his arrival on Monday, Mr. Kinkel said: "Germany is aware of the Egyptian position towards the NPT and is trying to understand it. But we are not going to mediate between Egypt and Israel."

U.S. Senate move on Jerusalem raises concern

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan plans to ask the Clinton administration not to consider moving the American embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem in line with a call made by members of the U.S. Senate, but the Kingdom has not made any official representation yet to Washington in this regard, officials said Wednesday.

Official sources said they expected the issue to be brought up during talks U.S. Vice-President Al Gore was having in Amman Tuesday night, and again during the visit of His Majesty King Hussein to Washington, where he is expected to meet with President Bill Clinton at the White House on March 27.

The officials were speaking one day after 93 members of the U.S. Senate, led by Patrick Moynihan, a Democrat from New York, sent a letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher saying that American policy should be "clear and unequivocal" that Jerusalem is Israel's capital.

It was the latest in efforts by American lawmakers to have Washington recognise Israel's claim that the Holy

City, the eastern part of which it seized in the 1967 war, is its "eternal and indivisible capital."

Only a handful of countries recognise the Israeli claim. The official American stand is that the status of Jerusalem is an issue that should be settled through Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Senior Clinton administration officials, including Martin Indyk, Washington's ambassador to Israel, have advised against moving the embassy to Jerusalem saying it would have a serious negative impact on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Jordanian government and Parliament, which support the Palestinians' claim to East Jerusalem, have consistently opposed any move of foreign diplomatic missions in Israel to Jerusalem. The Palestinians' stand is also supported by the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Conference as well as many members of the Organisation of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Abdullah Ensour, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, said this week

(Continued on page 7)

Russia seeks to allay Gulf fears of Iran

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Russia sought Tuesday to ease Gulf and Western concern at Iran's acquisition of two advanced submarines, after Russian experts said they had largely bolstered Tehran's naval power.

Experts said Tuesday that the two submarines, which may be joined by a third in a year, are among the most sophisticated in the world and their noise makes it too difficult for warships and aircraft to detect them.

Their 18 torpedoes, 24 mines and portable surface-to-air Igla (needle) missiles also make them some of the most dangerous enemies of naval or air forces, they added.

"This submarine is one of the most advanced in the world. It can win in a struggle against a warship regardless of its size," an expert from the Russian state Corporation for Export and Import of Armament and Military Equipment said, requesting anonymity. The company is participating in an international defence show here.

U.S. Defence Secretary

(Continued on page 7)

Arab states to show unanimity on nuclear treaty — diplomats

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League will likely call on Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in a rare show of unanimity at its ministerial meeting this week, diplomats say.

The foreign ministers of the 22 league members are to meet in Cairo Wednesday and Thursday as the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary still troubled by the divisions caused by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

No Arab summit has taken place since then. But the Arab League has not inter-Arab problems off the meeting's agenda — particularly the debate over whether to support an easing of the U.N. embargo on Iraq as well as the border dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Egypt should win the support of Arab countries to extend the NPT for a limited period, an Arab League official AFP on condition his name not be used.

Egypt has led a campaign against an indefinite extension of the treaty — aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons — unless Israel promises to sign on for the first time.

The United States has called for an unconditional and indefinite extension of the treaty by the 170 members of the United Nations at a U.N. conference held in April-May in New York.

Under a document to be submitted here on Wednesday, member countries "will take a stand that protects the interests of Arab countries."

The absence of "Israeli membership in the NPT, a revision of the NPT and a commitment from countries with nuclear weapons not to use or threaten to use them against a country that does not have them."

The delegate said "this position means a rejection of an indefinite extension of the NPT." Certain Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and Algeria have said they will sign the NPT but did not say for how long.

King Hassan II of Morocco told U.S. President Bill Clinton last Wednesday in Washington that it would be difficult for many countries to back a treaty that could not be considered universal if Israel was excluded.

Israel has said it cannot sign such a treaty as long as its existence remains threatened by countries such as Iran that are not taking part in the Middle East peace process.

Meanwhile, the "the Arab League Council is to adopt an Arab treaty to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction from the various countries of the Middle East," league spokesman Talaat Hamed said.

"This treaty will be implemented once Iran and Israel have signed it," according to the draft text.

The nuclear debate appears likely to draw attention away from the usual hot topic of Arab League debates — the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The lifting of the direct Arab boycott on Israel will not be discussed and Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state last October, asked Thursday to remove a clause on "occupied Jordanian land" that had always appeared on the agenda of ministerial meetings, Mr. Hamed said.

But the Palestinians "will ask for Arab support for their stand against Israeli shilly-shallying in applying the accord," that launched autonomy in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip last May, according to the permanent Palestinian delegate to the league, Mohammad Sobeh.

The ministers are also to reaffirm their support for Libya in its dispute with the West over the Lockerbie bombing, urge Iran to enter a dialogue in its island dispute with the United Arab Emirates, and renew an appeal for reconciliation between the warring factions in Somalia.

It also hopes that its proposal for an Arab Court of Justice will be adopted to mark its 50th anniversary with a concrete achievement, Mr. Hamed said.

U.N. talks in Cairo to address corruption

CAIRO (AFP) — Political corruption will be discussed for the first time during the sixth United Nations conference on crime prevention, to be held in Cairo from April 29 to May 9, organizers said Monday.

"Before, simply to mention corruption was taboo. Now there is increasing awareness and good indications of the willingness of the international community to discuss it and take more action," the conference's executive secretary, Eduardo Vetter, said.

"We hope there will be a follow-up in the form of new legislation," added the secretary general of the conference, Giorgio Giacomelli, who has come to Cairo for preparations.

The conference will also address urban violence and transnational and economic crime, as well as "all the new types of crime, such as crime against the environment, the traffic of children, of human organs, in species on the way to extinction, or in nuclear material," Mr. Giacomelli said.

He said he also expected a "significant importance will be given to international crime related to drug trafficking and money laundering, which is at least 50 per cent fuelled by drugs."

The end of the cold war "provided an opportunity for organised crime to take advantage, like a virus, of the porous borders" between countries, he added.

"We know that criminal organisations are running well ahead of us in getting organised and in cooperating. It is extremely important that in order to catch up we get organised," he said.

The Egyptian minister of the interior, General Hassan Al-Aïf, said Monday that the conference will also examine "ways to fight against violence and terrorism."

Egypt, the conference's host country, has battled for the past three years a wave of Muslim fundamentalist violence in which 677 people have died.

Gloomy looking taxi drivers, who stand to lose quite a bit of their daily bread, were parked nearby the suddenly nameless "Flamengo-bar," "Mc-Mac" and "Plaza Bar."

Almost the entire population of some 500,000 is Muslim, but the big surprise in the closure of the bars is that alcohol as such is not forbidden: It can be openly and perfectly legally bought at wholesalers, supermarkets and restaurants.

There are fears that the disappearance of the bars however might lead to clandestine sales of liquor in working-class districts and private homes.

The economy is based on Djibouti's port activities and allied services, and taxes on spirits are a major source of funds for the state coffers. Alcohol is also shipped by dhows to neighbouring Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Customs comes not only from the sailors of many nationalities passing through, but from the 10,000 French residents, including 3,500 military personnel stationed here in former French Somaliland.

Paris (Agencies) — France will try to get its European partners to pressure Iran to ensure the safety of Salman Rushdie, the British writer living under an Iranian death threat, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday.

Mr. Rushdie, on a two-day visit to France, said he hoped the European Union (EU) would seek "guarantees" from Iran that no attacks related to the death threat issued six years ago would be carried out in Europe.

"If they do provide that, we would see that as a positive development," Mr. Rushdie said, "not as the end of the 'fatwa' but, so to speak, as the end of the war, maybe something like a ceasefire."

Mr. Rushdie spoke after a meeting with Premier Edouard Balladur, the last in a series of talks with French officials, including Mr. Juppe.

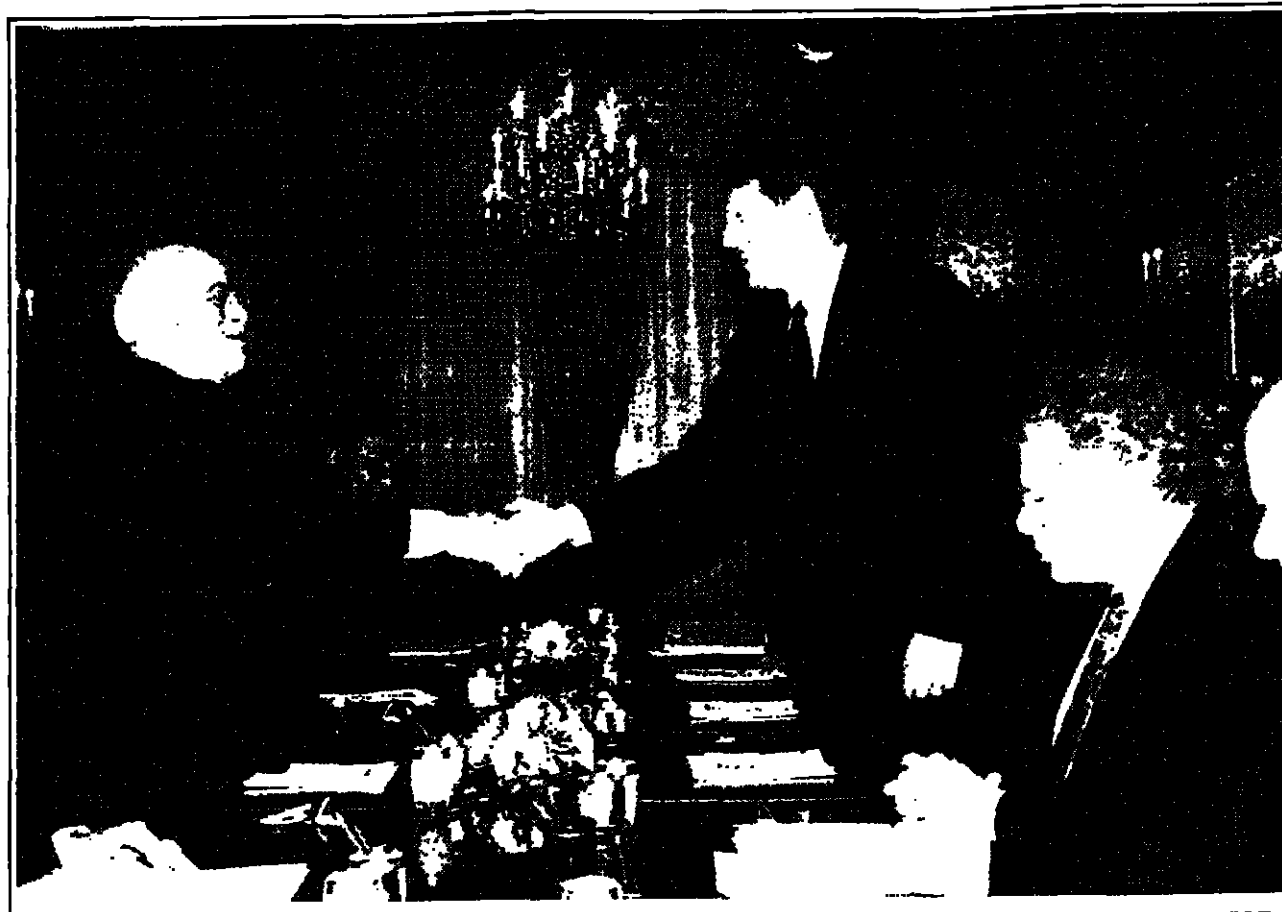
Mr. Juppe said France, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, was keen to press Iran on the issue but did not say exactly what Paris would seek.

Mr. Rushdie has lived in clandestinity since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued the "fatwa," or religious ruling, ordering Mr. Rushdie's death for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Khomeini has since died but the death order has not been lifted.

"We plan to raise this question at a meeting soon" of EU foreign ministers, Mr. Juppe said.

"We have a critical dialogue with Iran," Mr. Juppe said. "We are ready to take new initiatives and convince our Iranian partners that we must go forward or the critical part of the dialogue will be reinforced... and new pressure could then become necessary."

Mr. Juppe did not spell out what France would seek from the EU.



AL GORE IN AMMAN: His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore shake hands Tuesday at the outset of a meeting they held at the Basman Palace shortly after Mr. Gore's arrival here for a visit as part of a Middle East trip (see page one) (photo by Yousef Allan)

Djibouti closes bars

DIJIBOUTI (AFP) — The Djibouti government has closed down all bars in the tiny Horn of Africa territory, much to the dismay of sailors from around the world on shore leave in this strategic port at the mouth of the Red Sea.

Interior Minister Idriss Farah said the closure of the 80 assorted bars was intended to boost "society's moral tone and stop young people from wallowing in alcoholism and delinquency."

The cabinet decided on the measure early on January and meant to put it in effect on February 1 just before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a period of fasting. But into event, to give the proprietors plenty of time to wind up their businesses, the move was postponed until mid-March.

Although Interior Ministry officials had already taken down the brightly coloured neon signs, the hostesses and prostitutes gathered as usual on the last night in the bars waiting for sailors, soldiers from the permanent French garrison, and locals looking for entertainment.

In a statement made available to the Jordan Times, the London-based organisation further called for the abolition of the State Security Court and giving the civilian judiciary full jurisdiction.

"Amnesty International welcomes the Jordanian Court of Cassation's reversal on March 13 of verdicts from an unfair trial before the State Security Court," said the statement.

The decision "is keeping with the United Nations Convention against Torture..." it said. Jordan is a signatory to the convention, it noted.

The case involved five military cadets from Muta University, a lieutenant in the bodyguard unit of the King, and four others who, the prosecution said, were members of the clandestine Hezb Al Tahrir group. The 10, including two in absentia, were charged with plotting to assassinate the King during a Muta graduation ceremony on June 26, 1993.

After a trial that started in August 1993, the State Security Court, a military tribunal, found all the defendants guilty of plotting to kill the King, and four of them, including the two fugitives, were sentenced to death, and others were given prison terms ranging from 15 years to life terms.

In its March 13 ruling of the verdict after a review, the Court of Cassation said it was not convinced by the evidence that formed the basis for the State Security Court verdict and ordered eight of the defendants released.

The case of the two tried and convicted in absentia was not considered by the Court of Cassation since the law of the land says that any such review would be made only if the convicts were physically present in court.

The Court of Cassation also ruled that handling a case involving the charge of belonging to an illegal group was not in the jurisdiction of the State Security Court and that a civil court should have handled the case.

In its statement, Amnesty, who sent observers to some of the sessions of the State Security Court trial, said: "The Court of Cassation's judgement stated that confessions obtained from the defendants were illegal because they were extracted under duress. It also found that the testimony of one of the main prosecution witnesses did not validate the charges against the accused."

The organisation called on the government "to review the continued practice of prolonged incommunicado detention in Jordan, as it facilitates torture and ill-treatment and compromises the right to a fair trial."

The statement noted that another case, involving 18 people, including three in absentia, was awaiting the Court of Cassation's judgement. In that case, 25 people were tried by the State Security Court on charges of plotting to overthrow the government and carrying out bombings and other violent acts.

In December, the court sentenced 11 of them, including the three in absentia, to death, gave jail terms ranging between seven and life to seven, and acquitted seven.

France plans steps to aid Rushdie

Paris (Agencies) — France will try to get its European partners to pressure Iran to ensure the safety of Salman Rushdie, the British writer living under an Iranian death threat, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday.

Amnesty welcomes reversal of verdict in Jordanian case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amnesty International, the international human rights watchdog, has welcomed the recent decision by the Jordanian Court of Cassation to overturn the verdict of the State Security Court in a case involving five students from Muta University and five others who were convicted of plotting to assassinate His Majesty the King.

The decision made legal history since it was the first time that a civilian court reversed the decision of the State Security Court, a military tribunal, after newly enacted legal procedures made State Security Court verdicts automatically reviewable by the Court of Cassation.

Such review and the right of appeal against State Security Court verdicts had been one of the key demands of Amnesty for a long time. Families of the convicted as well as their lawyers welcomed the Court of Cassation ruling as a reaffirmation of the independence of the Jordanian judiciary.

In a statement made available to the Jordan Times, the London-based organisation further called for the abolition of the State Security Court and giving the civilian judiciary full jurisdiction.

"Amnesty International welcomes the Jordanian Court of Cassation's reversal on March 13 of verdicts from an unfair trial before the State Security Court," said the statement.

The decision "is keeping with the United Nations Convention against Torture..." it said. Jordan is a signatory to the convention, it noted.

The case involved five military cadets from Muta University, a lieutenant in the bodyguard unit of the King, and four others who, the prosecution said, were members of the clandestine Hezb Al Tahrir group. The 10, including two in absentia, were charged with plotting to assassinate the King during a Muta graduation ceremony on June 26, 1993.

After a trial that started in August 1993, the State Security Court, a military tribunal, found all the defendants guilty of plotting to kill the King, and four of them, including the two fugitives, were sentenced to death, and others were given prison terms ranging from 15 years to life terms.

In its March 13 ruling of the verdict after a review, the Court of Cassation said it was not convinced by the evidence that formed the basis for the State Security Court verdict and ordered eight of the defendants released.

The case of the two tried and convicted in absentia was not considered by the Court of Cassation since the law of the land says that any such review would be made only if the convicts were physically present in court.

The Court of Cassation also ruled that handling a case involving the charge of belonging to an illegal group was not in the jurisdiction of the State Security Court and that a civil court should have handled the case.

In its statement, Amnesty, who sent observers to some of the sessions of the State Security Court trial, said: "The Court of Cassation's judgement stated that confessions obtained from the defendants were illegal because they were extracted under duress. It also found that the testimony of one of the main prosecution witnesses did not validate the charges against the accused."

The organisation called on the government "to review the continued practice of prolonged incommunicado detention in Jordan, as it facilitates torture and ill-treatment and compromises the right to a fair trial."

The statement noted that another case, involving 18 people, including three in absentia, was awaiting the Court of Cassation's judgement. In that case, 25 people were tried by the State Security Court on charges of plotting to overthrow the government and carrying out bombings and other violent acts.

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Kurdish leader assails Turkish move into Iraq

By Michael Jansen

NICOSIA — Mr. Masallah Hoca, a representative in the Kurdish parliament-in-exile, on Tuesday condemned the incursion of the Turkish army into northern Iraq. "Before the eyes of the world Turkey is entering another country and attacking Kurds... 20-25,000 of our civilians are living in this area under U.N. protection... refugees from some of the 3,000 Kurdish villages Turkey has destroyed until now."

Mr. Hoca says he believes the Turkish military has understated the number of troops involved in the operation, asserting that, instead of the 35,000 claimed, the Turks have deployed "50-100,000."

He accused Turkey of provoking last week's demonstrations by Alawite communities in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir in order to use force against them and "make people afraid to go into the streets" to protest government policies or victimisation by Islamist bullies.

Although Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has blamed the troubles in the cities on "outsiders," Mr. Hoca insisted, "it was Kemal Ataturk (the father of modern Turkey) himself who created the present conflict because he took control of the lands of many minorities and said they must all become Turks."

"The Kurds were able to survive because of their huge population while the others do not have any people left. But the Turkish state changed the names of Kurdish towns and villages and denied Kurds their cultural and political rights. Kurds became second class citizens. And Alawites (a separate religious group) are third class citizens."

While denying Kurdish identity, the state also "stole Kurdish cultural richness," Mr. Hoca charged, for example, "by adopting as a Turkish holiday the Kurdish Alawite festival of Now Roz," now being celebrated.

"When the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) began its campaign for self-determination ten years ago, the people began to celebrate our greatest feast which was prohibited before. So the state declared it a national holiday."

"Now Roz" has become a traditional time of military campaigning by both sides. "Relations between Turkish and Iraqi Kurds are not good," he said. "We have some relations with (Jalal) Talabani (of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) but not with (Massoud) Barzani (of the Kurdish Democratic Party)," who supported Turkey's last massive incursion into Iraq in 1992.

Barzani visited Ankara last week and, according to Turkish sources, was informed of the operation. Barzani has denied this and condemned the army assault, that takes place as Barzani and the Talabani faction are, themselves, engaged in inter-clan warfare.

In Cyprus to take part in a memorial service for a Greek Cypriot supporter of the Kurdish cause assassinated a year ago, Mr. Hoca was sharply critical of the European Union for admitting Turkey into its customs union.

"By giving Turkey support at this point the EU is taking part in the oppression of the Kurds and allowing Turkey to continue its genocide in Kurdistan and (the country's) big cities."

Mr. Hoca, a former teacher of Turkish language and literature, is one of 70 representatives so far elected to the 75-member Kurdish parliament-in-exile.

France plans steps to aid Rushdie

Paris (Agencies) — France will try to get its European partners to pressure Iran to ensure the safety of Salman Rushdie, the British writer living under an Iranian death threat, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday.

Mr. Rushdie, on a two-day visit to France, said he hoped the European Union (EU) would seek "guarantees" from Iran that no attacks related to the death threat issued six years ago would be carried out in Europe.

"If they do provide that, we would see that as a positive development," Mr. Rushdie said, "not as the end of the 'fatwa' but, so to speak, as the end of the war, maybe something like a ceasefire."

Mr. Rushdie spoke after a meeting with Premier Edouard Balladur, the last in a series of talks with French officials, including Mr. Juppe.

Mr. Juppe said France, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, was keen to press Iran on the issue but did not say exactly what Paris would seek.

Mr. Rushdie has lived in clandestinity since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued the "fatwa," or religious ruling, ordering Mr. Rushdie's death for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Khomeini has since died but the death order has not been lifted.

"We plan to raise this question at a meeting soon" of EU foreign ministers, Mr. Juppe said.

"We have a critical dialogue with Iran," Mr. Juppe said. "We are ready to take new initiatives and convince our Iranian partners that we must go forward or the critical part of the dialogue will be reinforced... and new pressure could then become necessary."

Mr. Juppe did not spell out what France would seek from the EU.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen, Saudi leaders discuss security

SANAA (R) — The leaders of Yemen and Saudi Arabia, whose negotiators recently signed a memorandum to resolve their 60-year-old border dispute, held talks by telephone on Monday on how to increase regional security. The Yemen news agency SABA reported the talks between Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd but did not say whether they included the border dispute. Saudi Arabia and Yemen signed a memorandum of understanding on Feb. 25 to settle the dispute. The Saudi Press Agency said on Monday the Saudi cabinet, at its weekly meeting attended by King Fahd, endorsed the memorandum. Yemen's cabinet approved the document on March 8. It provides for committees to demarcate the land and sea borders and ensure there are no troops movements in the potentially oil-rich border area. The joint military committee set up under the agreement will meet in Saudi Arabia this week.

UAE, Ukraine sign economic accord

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ukraine signed a joint cooperation agreement on Monday to boost economic and trade ties, the Emirates news agency said. It said UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan signed the five-year agreement with Ukraine's Ministry of Industry and Conversion Minister Viktor Petrov. It gave no further details. Mr. Petrov was in Abu Dhabi to visit the IDEX '95 defence show, where some 500 Ukrainian exhibitors are attending. He said in an interview last week that he hoped the show would spotlight his country's ability to produce new tanks and aircraft and modernise older material once made by Moscow.

Israeli unions shed last symbol of socialism

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's powerful trade union federation, the Histadrut, on Monday abandoned its last symbol of socialism in the form of its traditional red hammer-and-sickle flag. Histadrut's emblem since its creation in 1920 has been replaced by a cog-wheel with a Star of David in its centre and several red dots, with the words "the new Histadrut." Secretary General Haim Ramon told the ITIM agency that the new emblem by a young Israeli designer symbolised "energy, reform and the latest technology." The Labour Party lost control of the huge trade union bloc last May to its former health minister at the head of a breakaway group.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Les Raisons Laveurs
17:30 News in English
18:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
18:30 E=M6
19:00 The Marvelous Machine
19:30 News in English
20:00 Prism
20:30 Suzy River
21:00 Keeping Up Appearance

PRAYER TIMES

04:17 (Sunrise) Fajr
05:34 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:43 Asr
17:52 Maghreb
18:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish Tel. 810740
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622646
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641955
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 644332
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Sunny and warm weather conditions are expected to prevail with winds southeasterly moderate becoming southwesterly moderate in the afternoon. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 8/19
Agaba 14/29
Djibouti 6/21
Jordan Valley 12/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 21 Agaba 29 Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 20 per cent, Agaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Semmour 663254
Dr. Ghazi Abdullah 884286
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 663532
First pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nafroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Nafroukh pharmacy 623672
Najouh pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qani
Al Ouds pharmacy
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985350
Khalif pharmacy 85417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue 630341
Police 192, 621111, 637771
Fire Brigade 61701
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 661101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660201
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husein Medical Centre 81381/392
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6428116
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 6434112
Jabal Amman Maternity 643632
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 66417114
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Mushtak Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710113
Al-Bashir, J. Asorideh 7751126
Aray, Abdali 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224030
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)986732
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Greck Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:45 Agaba (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:35 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05 Istanbul (RJ)
13:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
19:00 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
19:35 Beirut (RJ)
19:40 Colombo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:30 Aden (RJ)
20:45 New Delhi (



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday joins President Al Gore, at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (Petra)

Queen, Mrs. Gore visit NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday joined Tipper Gore, wife of the U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), a Royal Court statement said.

Mrs. Gore viewed a documentary outlining NHF's philosophy and innovative grassroots development projects and then toured the NHF Jordan Design and Trade Centre Showroom, which exhibits work from the NHF income generating projects and from other local artists.

The NHF, established in 1985, has launched more than 25 development projects focused on family and community development, women in development, children's welfare, enhancement of culture and heritage and advancement of education. The Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) was established by NHF in 1990 to raise the standards for Jordanian handicrafts production, to provide marketing opportunities, to create employment and to increase income among low-income communities in Jordan, particularly for women.

JDTC has assisted over 3,000 beneficiaries in more than 20 urban and rural communities throughout the Kingdom.

One of the major sources of funding for the centre is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which encompasses financial and technical assistance, marketing training and capital equipment such as vehicles and computers.

Other sources include the U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Development and Employment Fund of Jordan (DEF) and numerous embassies in Amman.

In'am Mufti, advisor to the Queen, members of the NHF Executive Committee: Mrs. Nawzat Shaker, Mr. Sami Gammo, Dr. Bassam Saket, Mrs. Noor Izzeddin, Mr. Abdallah Hindawi, NHF deputy chief director, and Mr. David O'Connor, the director of JDTC met with Mrs. Gore.

Municipality completes 75% of street naming, numbering

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality has completed the process of renaming and numbering streets in 75 per cent of the city, according to Marwan Ulayan, director of the Municipality's Naming and Numbering Department.

All streets and roads in Amman have been classified into four categories.

The first category applies to all streets whose width exceeds 20 metres.

These streets are named after the Hashemite kings, major battles in Arab and Islamic history especially those with direct relationship to Jordan, Palestine or Greater Syria, and abstract nouns such as independence, liberty, constitution and people.

The second category applies to all streets whose width ranges between 16-20 metres.

These are named after members of the Hashemite family, Arab and Islamic thinkers, late prime ministers, late mayors, and members of the city's executive council, and cabinet members of the former Emirate of Transjordan and cabinet members of the Kingdom.

The third category covers streets whose width ranges between eight to 16 metres.

Streets in this category take the names of Jordanian and Palestinian villages and cities, the names of martyrs of the Arab and Islamic worlds, members of the Municipality Council since its establishment in 1909, prominent personalities that have participated in the Great Arab Revolt, pioneers of charity societies and union associations, as well as the names of prominent personalities in different fields.

The fourth category which includes all other streets, alleys, tracks and stairs are named after birds, plants or numbers.

Special maps of the capital showing its 20 districts will be issued to facilitate the process of finding streets and addresses, Mr. Ulayan said.

Each of the city's 20 geographic areas is divided into several neighbourhoods bordered by main roads. Al Hussein Mosque, formerly in downtown Amman has been designated as the capital's centre.

The areas numbered so far include: Basman, Marka, Nasr, Yarmouk, Ras El Ein, Badr, Zabran, Abdali, Tareq, Jubaila, Tia Al Ali, Umm Summak, Wadi Seer, Sweileh and Abu Nuseir.

The municipality also issued guidebooks that include the names of the streets and maps of these areas and instructions on how to use the guide itself.

The municipality, in cooperation with the Royal Geographic Centre in Amman, will also publish a booklet called Amman Comprehensive Guide that will further facilitate the use of the naming and numbering system, according to Mr. Ulayan.

Jordan observes 27th anniversary of Al Karameh Battle in Jordan Valley

KARAMEH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday attended Jordan's main event marking the 27th anniversary of Al Karameh Battle organised by the Jordan Armed Forces at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier in South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley.

The King, who was received at the site by Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mar'at Kaabneh and senior army officers, laid a wreath of flowers on Al Karameh Battle Martyrs' Monument.

The Guard of Honour welcomed His Majesty as he arrived along with Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal.

Also present were Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Sour, the King's advisors, the Crown Prince's advisor, the Balqa governor and senior officers.

The mufti of the Armed Forces then read a prayer for the Jordanian martyrs killed in the battle.

Gen. Kaabneh delivered an address in which he paid tribute to the martyrs of Al Karameh.

He said the army, through the King's care and support for training and supplying the military with the most recent arms and equipment, will maintain its high level of performance and will always rise to any challenges and danger facing the country.

He said the Armed Forces will remain loyal to the message of the Hashemite leadership towards its Islamic and Arab Nation, following the path of the Great Arab Revolt.

Gen. Kaabneh said the King's signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty following a long period of conflict lights the way for the coming generations of the Arab Nation. The chairman highlighted historical moments when Arab and Islamic leaders signed treaties with their enemies, pointing to the Muslim leader Salabeddin who signed a treaty with the Crusaders in 1191 and Omar Ben Al Khattab who signed



His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, on Tuesday inspects a guard of honour mounted as part of celebrations marking the anniversary of the Battle of Karameh (Photo by Youssef Allan)

the Omari Pact with the Christian leader of Jerusalem when he opened the city.

"Conflicts on this land between nations and peoples date back before Islam and continue through history, taking various forms, European-Arab at times, Mongolian-Arab and Persian-Turkish at other times, until the 20th century when European competition to control the Arab region augmented," said Gen. Kaabneh.

"Then came the Sykes-Picot Treaty and the Balfour Declaration resulting from World War I, and these led to dividing the Arab Hashemite country and placing it under the Anglo-French mandate, thus leading to the expulsion of your great saviour and grandfather, the Sharif of Mecca, to Cyprus because he refused to sign," he added.

Gen. Kaabneh said that during the past five decades the region witnessed the Arab-Israeli conflict: the 1948, '56, '67, Al Karameh in 1968 and the 1973 wars and

battles.

He said the region was affected by the cold war and international alliances until the Gulf War, which ended with one superpower leading major world events.

He added that then, the path of the Arab-Israeli conflict witnessed a state of stability and tranquility, and there was a Hashemite call for the establishment of an Arab and Islamic order based on religious custodianship.

"This exceptional insight led you, Your Majesty, to reformulate the Great Arab Revolt and establish an exemplary democratic society in Jordan — a model to be followed in the entire Arab region — signalling the start of a new dawn which will achieve the glories of the Arab Nation and its suitable status among the world's nations and peoples," Gen. Kaabneh said.

In another address, delivered by Major Dia' Hammad, daughter of martyr Sergeant Salim Hammad, said her father had the honour of defending the country's national soil before he was killed, and this is a source of pride for his family.

She thanked King Hussein for his care on behalf of the armed forces' martyrs.

Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Karaki also delivered an address in which he reviewed the events of the battle and commended the King's leadership of the Jordanian forces.

Dr. Karaki said that 27 years after the battle, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the army and the people were still holding to their positions, defending their national soil.

Now Jordan has regained all its occupied land from Baqura to Aqaba, he said, addressing his words to the martyrs of the battle.

"Dr. Karaki implored the army to confront the 'doubt', the frightened, the defeated and the claimants of freedom who want chaos, those who claim patriotism, but are selfish, and those who

seek to tear the national fabric."

He said Jordan will "never be a country that will be taught how to serve its nation or a country subordinate to any country nor a crossing land, or a substitute homeland for anybody."

Three helicopters carrying the flags of the Great Arab Revolt, the Hashemite Kingdom and the Armed Forces flew over the site as the crowds chanted the King's name, and university and school students waved banners.

Other events marking the occasion were held in various parts of the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, King Hussein received cables of congratulations from Gen. Kaabneh, Director of the General Intelligence Department General Mustafa Al Qaisi, Director of the Public Security Department Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan, and acting Director of the Civil Defence Department Lieutenant General Theeb Al Maani.

NMC marks Arab League anniversary with rare 3-day Arabic music festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of the Arab League's 50th anniversary, the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NMC) will present an Arabic Music Festival from Wednesday to Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre, an NMC statement said Tuesday.

The aim of this festival is to further endorse Jordan's role as an active member of the Arab League by projecting the cultural achievements of the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular, the statement said.

For this purpose, the National Music Conservatory prepared a versatile programme of Arabic

music featuring musicians performing traditional and modern Arab music, said the statement.

Renowned oud soloist Munir Bashir and his son Omar will perform on the opening night, a duo programme of traditional Arab music and improvisations.

Thursday events will feature two activities: the first is a lecture entitled "The Music Map of Jordan."

In the lecture, Jordanian researcher Yusra Jawharieh Armita, will present an illustration of the genre and style of all forms of music in Jordan. The versatility of the musical forms stem from the fact that Jordan constitutes a connection point among several Arab

countries rich in musical heritage such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The lecture will have live demonstrations performed by musicians and ensembles from various parts of the Kingdom.

The second activity, an evening of traditional Arabic music and singing by Irbid Arabic Music Ensemble, will follow the lecture.

Irbid Arabic Music Ensemble will be under the baton of Mohammed Ghawanmeh, a Jordanian music scholar specialised in Arab music.

The closing night will be dedicated to Arabic music compositions.

The orchestra of the

National Music Conservatory, under the baton of Mohammed Othman Sidqi, will perform, in the first half, compositions by Arab composers Joseph Khasho (Jordan), the late Salvatore Armita (Palestine), Tewfik Basha (Lebanon), Gamal Salameh (Egypt), Agnes Bashir and Munir Bashir (Iraq).

Two visiting conductors will participate in the concert along with conductor Sidqi.

The renowned Lebanese composer/conductor Tewfik Basha from Lebanon will conduct his piece and Mustapha Naji, the conductor of Cairo Symphony Orchestra will conduct for Egyptian composer Gamal

Salameh.

The second half of the performance will feature the band of the National Music Conservatory performing a variety of classical, pop, film and theatre music such as the Lion King, Les Miserables, the symphonic Beatles and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

The band will be under the baton of Director of the National Music Conservatory, Kifah Fakhouri.

The objective of the second half of the performance is to reflect the broad-mindedness with which Arabs deal with music of other civilisations and cultures, the statement said.

Body of 5-year-old pulled from cesspool

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) rescue units in Irbid Monday retrieved the body of a 5-year-old Koutferyouba boy from a cesspool.

Khalid A. was playing outdoors Monday, when he fell in a cesspool 200 metres away from where he lived, a police official said.

The official told the Jordan

Times that the child, who was mentally ill, was last seen by his family at around 5:00 p.m. playing in a yard near their home.

"The child's family looked for him two hours later but could not find him," said the official.

"After searching the area near the victim's home we found a cesspool door open and we suspected that the child might have fallen in," the police official said.

Seminar seeks to enhance participation of local leadership in population projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on enhancing the role of local leadership participating in population projects organised by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) through financial support from the United Nations Population Fund, opened at the Teachers Club in Amman Tuesday.

The two-day seminar will discuss issues related to women's role in the national development process, population, mother health, family planning in

Islam, the role of local leaderships in population programmes and the national strategy on population.

NHF acting Director General Abdullah Hindawi delivered an address at the opening ceremony in which he pointed to the foundation's activities, projects and development programme.

Mr. Hindawi said NHF's projects and plans are not based on charity and offering assistance to the poor only, but also include conducting

surveys and studies and cooperating with private sector institutions on their needs, launching development projects, offering training to beneficiaries and extending the needed technical, administrative and financial services.

The two-day seminar signals the beginning of training programmes for NHF field coordinators and health workers as well as women in villages included in the project.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Pakistani President Farouq Khan congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day.

King Hussein wished Mr. Khan good health and happiness, and the Pakistani people further progress and prosperity.

Bridge opening hours announced

OUTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — As of Sunday, Apr. 2, the King Hussein Bridge will be open to traffic from 8.00 a.m. till 8.00 p.m., except Fridays, when the bridge will close at 1.00 p.m., according to Director of the Bridges Security Department Col. Fakhri Ikandar Dawoud. Col. Dawoud said the bridge will remain closed on Saturdays as usual.

Minister briefs panel on social development conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Salwa Daman-Masri Tuesday briefed the ministry's Planning Committee on the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development which concluded recently in Copenhagen. Mrs. Daman-Masri said the conference recommendations touched upon problems affecting humankind's progress including poverty, unemployment and social integration. The minister called for the formation of a special committee to follow up the implementation of the conference

recommendations at the national level, particularly the poverty issues. She pointed out that the conference announced the year 1996 as the year for combatting poverty.

Polio immunisation continues

AMMAN (Petra) — The week-long polio immunisation campaign which started last Saturday has administered the polio vaccine to 82.3 per cent of the targeted children under five years of age. Madaba, Jerash and Tafleeh rank first with 100 per cent immunisation coverage. Amman Governorate trailed at the bottom with only 68.3 per cent immunisation coverage. Other governorates performed well, such as Balqa with 97.8 per cent, Ajloun 95.9 per cent, Ma'an 93.2 per cent, Aqaba 87.7 per cent, Zarqa 84.9 per cent and Karak 83.7 per cent. A total of 557,768 children under five years old have been immunized in the current drive. The campaign, organised by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), seeks to protect children from polio and to eradicate it from Jordan.

European Investment Bank official to arrive Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The vice president of the European Investment Bank (EIB) arrives here Tuesday on a three-day official visit to Jordan for talks with officials on expanding the bank's participation in infrastructure projects, including water, sewerage, communication and transport. The bank will also undertake an evaluation of the projects carried out with support from the Bank.

ally marks Hebron massacre

continued from page 12

Former minister Hazem Nusseibeh said the Palestinians "will not forget the blood of their martyrs who were killed while kneeling in prayer and their blood will be avenged and will not be forgotten."

"If the Jews insist that the world leaders bow their heads in reference and respect for their dead, we will not be less respectful for our innocent victims and our glorious martyrs fallen in our struggle for Palestine," Dr. Nusseibeh said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

ARABIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

★ Duo oud recital by Munir Bashir and Omar Bashir (organised by the National Music Conservatory and Noor Al Hussein Foundation to mark the 50th anniversary of the Arab League) at the Royal Cultural Centre, conference hall, at 8:00 p.m.

AMERICA WEEK (AQABA)

★ Musician and Rock 'N' Roll Historian Billy Stevens at the Aqaba Gulf Hotel, Aqaba at 6:00 p.m. (the week includes exhibits and papershows featuring the USA, video programmes and electronic dialogues).

FILM

★ Film entitled "Stephie and Son" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture by Dr. Elia Zraia, a researcher in Israeli-Arab affairs, at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of books dealing with Arab and Islamic subjects at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibition of abstract art by 'Alia' Ammoura and oil paintings by Salman 'Abbas at Orfali Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Abeer Bawwab at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also displaying oil paintings by Munira Al Tunisiya.

★ Exhibition of paintings by several artists entitled "Faces" at the Balqa Art Gallery, Fuhis.

★ Exhibition of art by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Qassab Bashi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing a permanent exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.

4 World News

Clinton sets date with Yeltsin but stays away from W. Europe

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton's decision to attend a VE-Day commemoration in Moscow next month snubs U.S. allies and has riled Republican lawmakers who said it sends the wrong message to Russia.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms said Mr. Clinton's announcement Monday would be seen as an endorsement of "Russian aggression in Chechnya, nuclear sales to Iran and meddling by Russian agents in the affairs of former Soviet republics."

The news meant a snub for Britain, France and Germany, all of whom had invited Mr. Clinton to attend events in their countries, and came after strains in Anglo-U.S. relations over Clinton's VIP treatment of IRA political leader Gerry Adams.

But the White House dismissed suggestions this might offend allied leaders by noting that many of them will be at the Moscow ceremony.

The decision to combine a long-awaited summit meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin with the VE-Day commemoration ended weeks of hesitation by the White House over how to handle Mr. Yeltsin's invitation to Moscow.

On the one hand, Washington did not want to be seen as condoning Russian

treatment of the separatist uprising in Chechnya, but at the same time it was keen to make clear it remains unwavering in its support for Yeltsin's economic reforms.

Monday's announcement led with the fact that Mr. Clinton would be attending VE-Day events in Moscow during a visit to Russia and Ukraine from May 9 to 11, adding afterwards that there would also be summit meetings with Mr. Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

It also gave no definite date during the visit for the Yeltsin summit.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said that Mr. Clinton was hoping to schedule meetings with other European leaders attending the Moscow event, but this could not disguise the fact that Mr. Clinton preferred Mr. Yeltsin and a ceremony at home to ceremonies alongside his Western European allies.

Mr. Clinton had a 25-minute telephone conversation with Mr. Major at the weekend, after Mr. Major reportedly refused to take his calls twice the previous week because of displeasure over the treatment given Mr. Adams.

Officials here insisted that Sunday's conversation was "positive and friendly," but

Mr. Major's office in Downing Street used the words "businesslike and thorough," traditional diplomatic terms for strained and testy.

There have also been Franco-U.S. strains this year because of accusations of industrial espionage by U.S. agents in France.

But Mr. McCurry insisted Monday that Britain was "delighted" that Vice-President Al Gore would represent Washington at the VE-Day events, and dismissed suggestions that the recent tensions with London or Paris had influenced Mr. Clinton's decision to stay away.

And while Mr. Clinton rejected Mr. Major's VE-Day invitation, the White House confirmed that the British premier would be visiting Washington on April 3 and 4.

Mr. Clinton's acceptance of the Moscow invitation came after Mr. Yeltsin told U.S. correspondents last week that the VE-Day commemoration in Moscow's Red Square would not include displays of weaponry but only a victory parade of some 2,500 veterans of what Russia calls the "Great Patriotic War."

This avoided the prospect of Mr. Clinton looking approvingly at a display of Russian military might after complaining about the use to which it was being put in

Chechnya.

The Russian authorities have said that a much bigger parade of modern military might will, however, be held out of Mr. Clinton's sight, at a military memorial in western Moscow.

Mr. McCurry stressed Monday that the United States had expressed concern over events in Chechnya "at very high levels, including the highest level."

He also noted that Russia had indicated it wanted to settle this conflict by peaceful and political, rather than military, means.

Senator Mitch McConnell, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees foreign aid, said the visit "sends precisely the wrong message," adding that the wrong message at precisely the wrong time, adding that Mr. Clinton had given Mr. Yeltsin "everything he wanted without getting anything in return."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will discuss plans for the Moscow meeting when he meets with his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrev in Geneva Wednesday, Mr. McCurry said.

At the top of the summit agenda, he said, will be issues associated with economic reform in Russia, followed by the expansion of NATO.



Queen Elizabeth II of England sits with South African President Nelson Mandela at the state banquet held in the queen's honour in Cape Town. The monarch is on a six-day state visit to South Africa, the first to the country since 1947 (AFP photo)

British queen attends memorial service

CAPE TOWN (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II Tuesday attended a service of "thanksgiving and reconciliation" on South Africa's first human rights day, commemorating a 1960 massacre that turned the country into an international pariah.

Apartheid's security forces shot down 69 black protesters in the Sharpeville township south of Johannesburg during a demonstration against the hated Pass Laws that restricted black movement in the country.

"What happened 35 years ago in Sharpeville eventually led to South Africa leaving the Commonwealth (in 1961), because from then on she became the pariah of the world," Archbishop Desmond Tutu said in his sermon at St. George's Anglican Cathedral in the centre of Cape Town.

He praised God for the dramatic switch from apartheid to democracy, which culminated in last year's all-race elections that brought President Nelson Mandela

and his African National Congress to power.

"He has filled our mouths with laughter and we are like those who dream. What a turn-around," Arch. Tutu told the packed congregation that included the queen, her husband Prince Philip and President Mandela.

Arch. Tutu, one of South Africa's four Nobel Peace Prize winners, noted the queen celebrated her 21st birthday in Cape Town on her last visit with her parents King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and sister Prince Margaret in 1947.

"Your Majesty celebrated your 21st birthday here in Cape Town. A belated — but oh so precious — birthday gift is our freedom which we celebrate with you, ma'am," he told her.

"We are allowed in this cathedral to clap," he then said to the congregation, which responded with loud applause.

Arch. Tutu listed the country's democratic freedoms, adding: "We will oppose any

violation of human rights with every fibre of our being."

He noted St. George's, first started in 1904, had become known as the "people's cathedral" for the role the clergy had taken in opposing apartheid and opening its doors as a refuge.

Prince Philip read the lesson, from John, Chapter 15, Verses 8-13, which conclude: "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

The government named the informal Sharpeville Day as Human Rights Day — over the protests of some black groups — and declared it a public holiday.

After the hour-long service, which included an African Marimba band and traditional music which brought a broad smile to Mr. Mandela's face, the queen walked from the cathedral to the nearby former City Hall, where she held her 21st birthday ball.

Feminist author Germaine Greer raped at 19

LONDON (R) — Feminist writer Germaine Greer said that she was brutally raped in Australia shortly after her 19th birthday and urged other women who had been violated to report the crime to protect future victims.

Greer, writing a weekly column in the Guardian newspaper, said she never reported the attack to police. But she said she now hoped her frank account would encourage hundreds of thousands of women who have had to live down a rape to "report the most under-reported crime on the books."

"I was raped by the kind of boy my mother would have wanted me to marry, a strapping great rugby player, bred by the Jesuits to Catholicism and banking," said the 55-year-old author, whose book *The Female Eunuch* became a feminist bible when it appeared in 1970. Greer said she had been at a barbeque in Melbourne when the man marched her down a road and into a car where the assault occurred. "It is time the raped came out and outed their assailants," she said, adding that a rapists' register should be set up to prevent men from repeating the crime.

Chinese woman marries rapist

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese woman, who was ostracised by her local community after being raped, ended up marrying her attacker when he was released from a six-year jail sentence, a report said Tuesday.

The woman, from a village in southern Guangdong province, found herself spurned by all the local bachelors after an indiscreet magistrate identified her as the victim in a rape trial. As in many other countries, China has regulations stipulating that rape victims should not be identified, although in China's case the rule is mainly aimed at protecting the woman from the stigma attached to loss of virginity before marriage. By the time the rapist was released from jail six years later, the woman was more than 30 years old and, out of desperation to find a husband, agreed to marry him, the Yangcheng Evening News reported. The day after the marriage, her new husband promptly wrote to the local judicial officials demanding that his original conviction be overturned on the grounds that his marriage to the victim proved his innocence. His appeal was rejected. In an accompanying commentary, the newspaper lashed out at the magistrate who first allowed the rape victim to be identified. "The press often calls on rape victims to come forward and help police, but how can we do so if the confidentiality of the victims is going to be breached in this manner?" it said.

European film groups form lobby

PARIS (AFP) — Six of Europe's biggest film production groups, including the German group Bertelsmann, France's Chargeurs and the British group Rank Organisation said they were forming a lobby to press for an expansion of the European film industry. The lobby, aimed at influencing European Commission policy in Brussels, said that if the right measures are taken there could be a "rapid expansion" of the European cinema industry which currently lags several leagues behind its transatlantic rival, Hollywood, the groups said. In a statement sent to the Commission and to members of the European Parliament, the lobby's six founders said the film sector in Europe "could become one of the main providers of jobs in the third millennium if action is taken to eliminate the structural weaknesses which threaten its competitiveness."

In Europe, cinemas frequently show a majority of U.S.-made films and home-made films often get little showing and limited release around Europe, unless they first make a box-office success in the United States. A case in point is the British-made film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, currently Europe's biggest money-spinner but an initial flop until it was picked up in the United States. The lobby — composed of Bertelsmann, Chargeurs, Rank, Polygram from the Netherlands, RCS of Italy and Sogepaq of Spain — proposed a number of measures including strengthening of copyright law to help producers, 100 per cent tax breaks on production,

Manila court gives Briton long jail term for drugs

MANILA (R) — A British mobile phone salesman wept after a Philippine judge sentenced him Tuesday to 35 years in jail on drug charges instead of the death penalty demanded by prosecutors.

A Manila court found Nigel Richard Gatward, 31, guilty of attempting to smuggle 52 kilograms of heroin out of the country last August.

"That's an injustice. I've done no wrong," Mr. Gatward told reporters as he was handcuffed and hustled away in tears to begin serving his sentence.

Prosecutors' demands for the death penalty, reintroduced here last year, came as the country remained in uproar over the hanging last Friday in Singapore on murder charges of a Filipino maid, 42-year-old Flor Contemplacion.

Judge Alfredo Gustilo said he did not sentence Mr. Gatward to death because prosecutors had not shown there were any aggravating circumstances, such as an escape attempt.

"There was no basis to impose the death penalty on the accused. It would have been improper," Judge Gustilo told reporters.

A 28-year-old seaman Aung Win, who was accused alongside Mr. Gatward and pleaded guilty, was sentenced to 25 years in jail.

Mr. Gatward, from Chatham in south London, had pleaded not guilty. He was also fined five million pesos (\$192,000) while the Burmese was fined one million pesos (\$38,400).

Many Filipinos had expected the death penalty for Mr. Gatward.

At least 29 people, including a Japanese national, have been sentenced to death in the Philippines since the death penalty was revived in 1994 for drug traffickers, murderers, kidnappers and rapists.

The law prescribes a maximum penalty of death by electrocution for people caught transporting or possessing heroin weighing 40 grammes (1.4 ounces) or more.

Church leaders have called for the penalty to be scrapped following the hanging of Ms. Contemplacion, who had confessed to a double murder.

Widespread belief in the Philippines that Ms. Contemplacion was innocent and that not enough was done to make sure she had the best legal defence has triggered street protests and threats of reprisals from Communist guerrillas.

The Singapore government said Tuesday it has lodged a strong protest with Manila over the burning of a Singapore flag in the Philippines following the hanging here of the Filipino maid last week.

Troops patrol Burundi capital after ambush

BUJUMBURA (R) — Hundreds of troops patrolled Burundi's capital Bujumbura Tuesday with tension high in the wake of Sunday's ambush in which three Belgians and two soldiers were killed.

Residents said they heard sporadic gunfire and grenade explosions in the north of the city overnight and the volatile Hutu suburb of Kamenge was virtually sealed off by troops.

As curfew lifted at dawn, soldiers turned traders away from the main market, where four people were killed in clashes between stone-throwing gangs of Tutsis and Hutus Monday, witnesses said.

Traffic began to run normally in other parts of the city.

Gunfire is frequently heard at night in Bujumbura since the assassination of Hutu Energy and Mines Minister Ernest Kabushemeye on March 11, signalling a new phase in Burundi's bloody ethnic crisis which has spluttered on for 18 months.

Bhutto seeks U.S. help against drugs, terrorists

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Preparing for an important visit to America, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described her country Tuesday as a moderate but troubled Islamic state that badly needs help from the United States to combat drugs and terrorism.

Ms. Bhutto noted that Pakistan had cooperated to extradite suspected drug barons and terrorists to the United States, but was still being punished under U.S. sanctions imposed to protest the country's nuclear programme.

"One of the messages I will be taking to the (U.S.) administration and Congress is that you are a fair nation and we've been allies," Ms. Bhutto told a small group of American journalists.

"Help me strengthen the forces of moderation by taking away the factors that fuel fanaticism," she said in the interview at her official residence.

Her administration is beset with a host of serious problems, including a stagnant economy, a powerful drug mafia, and escalating violence in the southern city of Karachi, the business capital.

Ms. Bhutto, wearing a cherry red outfit with a white scarf, conceded that her government lacked the money to combat these problems on its own. U.S. sanctions are making the problem worse.

"An old (American) friend, an ally, a frontline state against extremism, militancy, terrorism and the narcotics trade is being undermined," Ms. Bhutto said. "I am sure that the United States will not review its policies to strengthen a moderate Pakistan."

The Americans and the Pakistanis have been working closely on two highly publicised terrorism cases.

Law enforcement officers

U.S. tries to frustrate EU bid for UNICEF director

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States has submitted the names of several women for the top post of UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund, in an effort to frustrate a European campaign for the prestigious post.

UNICEF has been headed by an American since it was founded in 1946 and until several months ago Washington was confident its candidate, Dr. William Foege, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, would get the job.

The new names include Carol Bellamy, director of the Peace Corps and former New York City Council president, sources at the United Nations told Reuters.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is known to want to choose a woman for executive director of UNICEF, following heavy criticism this month that women occupy only 15 per cent of the upper management posts.

Simpson displays his finger to murder trial jury

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson Monday showed the jury hearing his trial in double murder charges the middle finger of his left hand, which the prosecution claims left a bloody trail leading from his ex-wife's home to his mansion two miles (3.2 km) away.

The football legend's defence team was trying to show that the middle knuckle of the finger was permanently swollen due to arthritis, and had not been temporarily swollen because of a cut.

Defence attorney Robert Shapiro had Simpson leave his seat at the defence table and walk over to the 12 jurors and seven alternate panel members and show them his finger.

Reporters in the courtroom said Simpson's left hand was shaking as the jurors leaned forward to look at his finger. One reporter noted that the knuckle did not look swollen, but appeared bent.

Detective Philip Vannatter testified last week that a cut on Simpson's finger led him to believe the former star running back was the person who had left a bloody trail which started at his ex-wife's condominium and ended in the foyer of Simpson's mansion.

Simpson's lawyers claim he cut his hand on a glass in his Chicago hotel room after learning his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, had been murdered.

Prosecutors say he cut his hand in a vicious knife attack on Nicole Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman which left the victims lying in pools of blood.

Simpson, the football hall of fame, sportscaster and actor, has pleaded innocent



O.J. Simpson shows the jury his middle finger in Los Angeles as part of the cross examination of Detective Philip Vannatter, a lead detective who had testified that the finger appeared to have been cut and swollen in the afternoon of the murders.

The defence went on the attack against Mr. Vannatter attempting to portray the veteran policeman as an over-the-hill detective (AFP photo)

in the murders.

Mr. Vannatter testified he noticed a bandage on Simpson's finger while interviewing him at Los Angeles Police Headquarters on Simpson's return from Chicago on June 13, 1994, the day after the killings.

When the bandage was taken off, Mr. Vannatter said that the knuckle was cut and swollen and that there was dried blood around the cut.

In answer to Mr. Shapiro, he said he had not examined Mr. Simpson's finger since then.

Mr. Shapiro then said, "what if his finger was always swollen due to a medical condition and not due to any laceration?" before inviting the detective to examine Simpson's finger.

Mr. Vannatter said the fin-

ger did not appear swollen to him.

After Mr. Vannatter examined the finger, the celebrity defendant, surrounded by three sheriff's deputies and a bevy of prosecutors and defence lawyers, walked over to jury box to display the finger to each juror.

Mr. Vannatter also testified in answer to questions from prosecutor Christopher Darden that, based on the trail of blood from Nicole Simpson's home to the mansion, he had probable cause to arrest Simpson the day after the murders, but held off.

Mr. Vannatter said he did not arrest Simpson on his arrival from Chicago because he wanted more evidence before recommending to the

district attorney's office that Simpson be charged with the murders.

Mr. Vannatter described probable cause as "a strong and honest suspicion that would lead a reasonable person to believe the suspect was involved in the crime."

Simpson was handcuffed briefly at his home after flying back from Chicago, but Mr. Vannatter said he took the handcuffs off and made the decision not to place Simpson under arrest and to ask for his voluntary cooperation in making a statement.

Simpson agreed.

"Knowing the (charge) filing policy of the district attorney's office, they want more than probable cause they want evidence that will lead to a conviction," Mr. Vannatter said.

Feminist author Germaine Greer raped at 19

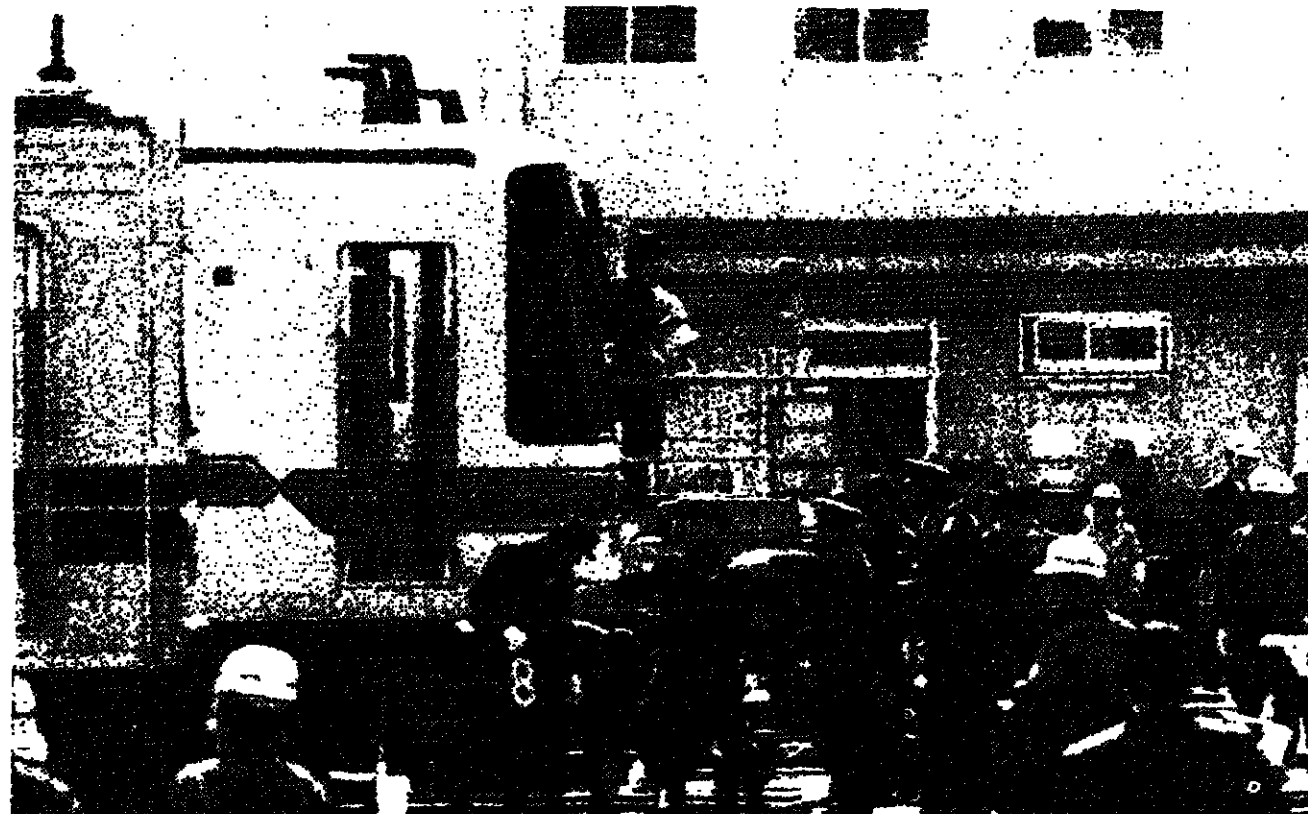
LONDON (AP) — A woman who wrote a best-selling autobiography about her sexual abuse by a powerful man in the 1960s has been raped by a man who was her lover at the time. The woman, Germaine Greer, 58, was raped by a man who was her lover at the time. The woman, Germaine Greer, 58, was raped by a man who was her lover at the time.

Chinese woman marries

Chinese woman marries... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read, but appears to be a headline or sub-headline related to a marriage.)

European groups

European groups... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read, but appears to be a headline or sub-headline related to European groups.)



Police investigators and subway officials check subway cars Tuesday in Tokyo after attackers unleashed nerve gas in the Tokyo metro system during rush hour Monday killing eight people and injuring more than 3,300 (AFP photo)

Japan nerve-gas hunt focuses on sick suspect

TOKYO (AFP) — The hunt for the nerve-gas killers of the Tokyo subway focused Tuesday on a suspect reportedly injured in the attack, as the death toll rose to eight and doctors fought for the survival of scores who were in comas.

The suspect however is too ill to be questioned about an object he reportedly left aboard one of five subway trains that were targeted in the attack, the Tokyo Shinjuku reported.

A passenger kicked the object from the carriage after the train stopped at Kodenmacho Station on the Hibiya Line, the newspaper said.

Commuters then chased the man, who eventually collapsed from the effects of the gas — a substance believed to contain sarin, a lethal nerve gas devised by the Nazis — and was taken to hospital along with thousands of other casualties.

A police spokesman declined to comment on the report, saying: "We are still investigating. We have not reached a stage where we can make announcements."

It was the sole apparent lead that emerged on the day after an attack unprecedented in the history of urban crime, and one that shocked many Japanese into a panic-stricken reassessment of their country's reputation for safety.

Hundreds of detectives were trying to track down the mysterious assailants, who planted the toxic devices at rush-hour in the packed subway system.

Police believe that at least four people carried out the attack, leaving six containers, press reports said.

No group of any political hue has claimed responsibility — leaving a silence that led some newspapers to conclude that a fringe organisation, such as an extremist religious sect, was to blame.

Subway teams spent Monday night spraying station walls and subway to hose away and trace of the poison, a substance so deadly that a drop of the size of a pinhead can kill.

Sixty inspectors were brought in to search trains for other suspect devices. But the measures did little to reassure terrified commuters, and the subway authorities said travel loads Tuesday were between 10 and 30 per cent below normal for what was a scheduled national holiday.

"We have had several calls from people asking about current conditions at our station," said Katsumi Yajima, a 55-year-old employee at Tsukiji Station, one of 16 where gas sufferers were evacuated.

"All the poisonous material has been removed. But people may remain fearful until suspects are arrested," he added.

Haruhiko Matsuda, 49, a restaurant owner who uses the Tsukiji Station, said: "What we fear most is that we know almost nothing about the killers. Who knows who is going to be the next victim in Tokyo or somewhere else?"

"I fear another attack," said Nobuo Kon, 61, a construction company worker. "If we knew at least what kind of terrorism this was, we could prepare. But this is just beyond belief."

A controversial sect linked to one of the incidents has been besieged by reporters since the subway incident. It called a special news conference Tuesday to deny a new denial of any involvement.

"We are not involved in the case at all," a spokesman for the esoteric yoga-practising cult of Aum Shinrikyo said. The cult predicts the end of the world in 1997.

Last June, sarin gas, which is 500 times as toxic as cyanide, killed seven and injured more than 200 in Japanese city of Matsumoto.

Meanwhile, the toll from the assault rose by two to eight with the death of a subway train driver and a commuter.

Doctors worried over the most serious cases among 4,700 injured. Seventy-five people remained in comas, and 46 others were still in serious condition, being conscious but complaining of nausea and pain in their eyes, a spokesman for the Tokyo Fire Department said.

"At present there are no agents or drugs available that can detoxify sarin," said Naohide Inoue, a professor at Kyushu University's Faculty of Medicine.

"The only method of treatment would be to control respiration and help facilitate the detoxification function of the liver, just like treatment in any other poisoning case," he added.

Any help for the victims has to be immediate, otherwise the damage can be irreversible, added Yukio Kuroiwa, a professor of chemistry at Tokyo's Showa University.

Ex-Soviet republics show limits of stability pact

PARIS (R) — Former Soviet republics exposed the limits of the European Union's stability pact for Eastern Europe Tuesday by pinpointing unresolved minority, border and economic problems that threaten international peace.

Amid self-congratulatory speeches at the end of a two-day conference in Paris, Russia's southern and western neighbours highlighted wider risks from conflict in ex-Yugoslavia and the Caucasus, which were beyond the scope of a pact on stability in Europe adopted Monday.

The pact was intended to promote good neighbourly relations and resolve outstanding minority and border issues among nine central and East European states that have been promised eventual EU membership.

French Foreign Minister Jean Juppe hailed it at a closing news conference Tuesday as "the first major exercise in preventive diplomacy since the end of the cold war era."

He appealed to Romania and Hungary, and Russia and Estonia, to conclude agreements settling border and minority issues soon after they narrowly failed to meet the Paris deadline.

But Georgian Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaide said that without concerted international action to handle crises in the former Soviet Union "all discussion about stability will be a waste of time and will find a place only in history books."

Turkish Ambassador Tanis Bleda said while the stability pact exercise was valuable, "we must not lose sight of the fact that aggression and ethnic cleansing still appear to be paying off in former Yugoslavia."

He also cited the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the recent Russian military crackdown in rebel Chechnya.

As he spoke, some 35,000 Turkish troops were penetrating into Iraq and planes were bombing Kurdish refugee camps in a massive operation aimed at guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) fighting the Ankara government for self-rule.

Azeri Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov used the conference platform earlier to accuse Armenia of annexing part of Azeri territory under the pretext of protecting ethnic Armenians in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh within Azerbaijan.

Ukraine complained that it had been unfairly excluded from the privileged group of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and the three Baltic states earmarked for eventual EU membership.

Neighbouring Belarus said it was so short of money that it could not afford to destroy former Soviet military hardware on its soil due to be liquidated under a 1990 treaty limiting conventional forces in Europe.

Mr. Juppe sought to counter criticism of the limits of the diplomatic initiative, originally proposed by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, by saying the same method might be extended to the Mediterranean basin, the Caucasus and the Balkans, if peace returned.

But while the lure of eventual EU membership could spur former Yugoslav states to restore peace, there was no such prospect further east and south, where the incentives would have to be regional cooperation and EU financial assistance, he said.

Both Mr. Juppe and Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti, speaking for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said the Paris conference was only the beginning, not the end of the stability exercise.

What mattered was to ensure that the ringing declaration and bilateral agreements were actually implemented in practice.

N. Korea: U.S. trying to delay nuclear project

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea said Tuesday that the United States was trying to delay the supply of light-water nuclear reactors to the communist country by denying that the units be with Korean made.

They (the United States) said the rumours that it is not the 'deadline' the conclusion of an agreement on the provision of light-water reactors, but a 'get date', a Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying.

The spokesman made the remarks in Pyongyang's Korea Central News Agency (NA), which added that United States is trying to delay the conclusion of an agreement with the insistence on the provision of South Korean model light-water reactors.

"We cannot but consider this is a trick to make an excuse for delaying the provision of light-water reactors to an indefinite period," a quoted the official as saying.

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), an international consortium, was formed in New York earlier this month to provide two light-water nuclear reactors in North Korea.

The international effort was in line with an agreement in October between Pyongyang and Washington aimed at preventing the development of nuclear arms by North Korea through the use of plutonium from nuclear facilities.

"We could not but resume the operation of some nuclear facilities," (which are now frozen) if there is a delay in providing light-water nuclear reactors to North Korea, the North Korean spokesman warned.

North Korea has repeatedly insisted on choosing the type of light-water nuclear reactors to be provided.

"The U.S. insistence on the South Korean model is not a mere technical issue but a very serious issue related to the political position of the United States," the North Korean official said.

Stephen Bosworth, president of the U.S.-Japan Foundation, has been named head of the KEDO, news reports here said.

Itaru Umezumi, councillor in the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Social Cooperation Division, and Young Jin-Choi, head of the South Korean Foreign Ministry's International Economics Department, were named to assist Mr. Bosworth, the reports said.

In a separate development, South Korea Tuesday rejected North Korean threats to scuttle Seoul's plans for a nuclear waste dump on an island near the border, dismissing charges that the site could endanger millions of lives.

"There is no reason whatsoever why North Korea should dispute the planned nuclear waste yard to safely manage radioactive waste resulting from the peaceful use of atomic energy," government statement said.

The statement by National Unification Board spokesman Kim Kyung-Woong, carried by South Korean news agency, Yonhap, said North Korea might be looking for an excuse to scrap inter-Korean agreements on nuclear safety.

"Instead of making an unfounded charge against us, North Korea should return to the dialogue table and promptly translate bilateral agreements into action," he added.

He said the project's safety and location had been approved by experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

North Korea warned last Friday that it would "take a resolute countermeasure to defend the existence of the nation," if Seoul pushed through with the project on Kulop Island, scheduled to be operational by 2001.

KCNA said the islet was just 70 kilometres from the North Korean coast, and posed a danger to 25 million North and South Koreans living within a radius of 100 kilometres (63 miles) of Kulop, as well as Chinese coastal areas.

Fighting continues in northeast Bosnia; Serbs shell Tuzla

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serb forces fired six artillery shells Tuesday morning into the Tuzla area of northeast Bosnia, the second attack in as many days as fighting picked up again on the ground to the north and east of the city, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said here.

Meanwhile, the Serbs removed several artillery pieces from a heavy weapons collection point outside Sarajevo, amid fears these might be used to shell the capital.

Speaking in Zagreb, U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi said Bosnian government attacks, which began Monday notably outside Tuzla, were "a major blow to the ceasefire," which came into force at the start of the year, UNPROFOR spokesman Alexander Ivankovic reported. The truce is due to expire on May 1.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said he was convinced Bosnia was headed towards a resumption of hostilities and he called on the five-nation "contact group" dealing with former Yugoslavia to pull together to find a solution to the crisis.

Nearly 900 shell explosions were monitored in the north and northeast of the country Monday after 2,000 Bosnian soldiers, backed by at least five T-55 tanks, apparently sought to capture a television relay station atop the 900-metre high Stolice feature, in the Majevica Hills, UNPROFOR said.

Fighting was also reported northeast of Tuzla where, according to UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward the Muslim-led Bosnian arm might have gained some ground.

Early indications suggested government forces had failed to capture Stolice and suffered heavy casualties in their initial attack, Col. Coward said.

After a lull Monday afternoon, due possibly to heavy snowfalls across much of the country, fighting picked up again Tuesday morning with Serbs firing 250 shells in the Majevica area and Bosnian troops firing back 19, Col. Coward said.

A battle was also under way southeast of Tuzla, around Kalesija, with 228 shell explosions reported.

Tuzla Air Base, south of the city, the scene of recent suspected air drops by unidentified aircraft, also came under fire with U.N. observers reporting 43 explosions in the area.

UNPROFOR spokesman said Bosnian government restrictions to the movement of observers in the area was preventing them from fully assessing the situation.

In Tuzla itself, the Serbs seemed to have hit military rather than civilian targets Monday, according to Mr. Ivankovic.

At least one shell was reported to have fallen on a Bosnian army barracks during morning parade, with casualties assessed as 26 killed and 80 injured, Col. Coward said.

There was no confirmation from the Bosnian government but President Alija Izetbegovic sent his condolences to the families of dead and wounded in Tuzla, where 19 people were killed and scores wounded, according to Sarajevo Radio. It did not specify whether the dead were civilians or soldiers.

U.N. military observers on the ground reported that a shell left a crater at the army barracks' parade ground and that the ground had been holed down.

According to another U.N. observer who managed to visit a hospital in the town, 150 to 200 casualties, suffering shrapnel or gunshot wounds, had recently been admitted. Other field hospitals in the area could not be visited.

Elsewhere in the country, fighting was more low key, except near the central town of Travnik where another Bosnian army push was underway, according to the Serbs.

There again Bosnian troops were believed to be trying to seize a radio transmission centre atop a 2,000-metre-high mountain.

Meanwhile, in Sarajevo, the Serbs illegally removed one 20mm cannon from the Lukavica Barracks collection point Monday and four more artillery pieces, including a 105 mm cannon and a 120 mm mortar, overnight, Major Hervé Gourmelon said.

Heavy weapons are banned from within a 20-kilometre (12-mile) radius of Sarajevo, in line with an agreement reached between the warring parties a year ago when the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation threatened to bomb Serb cannons firing on the city.



Two Chechen fighters prepare their missile before going into battle 25 kilometres from Shali in Chechnya. Russian military forces began military actions in the Shali, Argun and Gudermes regions of Chechnya (AFP photo)

Russian offensive stalled — Chechen commander

SHALI, Russia (AFP) — Russian forces failed to maintain their push into the south-east of the breakaway republic despite intense fighting overnight, Chechen military leaders said Tuesday.

Russian soldiers, facing off Chechen fighters along the Argun River between Shali and Argun, tried to push further south along the front line which passes six kilometres from Shali, said the Chechen deputy military commander of the Shali district, Sahid-Hassan Tatayev.

He said the push had been stopped by Chechen forces whose only tank regiment was a few kilometres south of Shali, which the rebel forces now consider their capital.

Shali is some 20 kilometres (12 miles) southeast of Grozny.

Intense artillery, rocket and machine-gun fire could be heard most of Monday night coming from the combat zone which was regularly lit up by flares.

Russian attacks killed at least six people and wounded several dozen in the upsurge in fighting Sunday, medical sources reported, adding that many of the hospitalised were children.

The zone of Argun, 15 kilometres east of Grozny, where Chechen forces are still resisting the Russians, was also intensively shelled.

Mr. Tatayev said Russian forces had not made any further progress towards Argun either. "We're hitting back," he added.

There were no immediate reports of casualties Monday from the fighting but an injured Chechen fighter was taken overnight to hospital in Shali, doctors there said.

Two people died of their injuries after Russian planes attacked the village of Mekhketi, 15 kilometres south of Shali, and neighbouring roads late Monday, medical sources added. Eight people were injured.

Villagers said a number of bombs were dropped there while refugees fleeing the region in cars were also attacked.

Thousands of people have died since December when Russia sent troops into Chechnya to suppress a separatist rebellion, while thousands more have fled their homes to escape the fierce fighting.

Meanwhile, Chechens who opened an information centre in Krakow, south Poland, said Tuesday they intend setting up a radio station broadcasting to the former Soviet Republic in Chechen and Russian.

U.N. reports new killings, torture in Abkhazia

GENEVA (R) — The U.N. refugee agency Tuesday reported a new wave of killing in the breakaway province of Abkhazia where dozens of ethnic Georgians were tortured or murdered by rebel militias last week.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said between 400 and 600 Abkhaz militiamen had swept through Abkhazia's Gali region killing at least 10 Georgians and torturing dozens of others in a five-day spree of violence.

At least 700 Georgians had fled across the Inguri River back into the former Soviet Republic of Georgia because of the sudden Abkhaz attacks.

"We are absolutely appalled at these horrible abuses and we are making our views known to the Abkhaz authorities," UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told a news briefing.

More than a quarter of a million Georgians fled the Black Sea strip in September 1992 when Abkhaz rebels routed Georgian troops after a year of war.

Thousands have since returned, especially to the Gali region near Georgia proper, although only 311 managed to do so under a short-lived UNHCR repatriation programme. Mr. Redmond said Abkhaz authorities had said the militia force was in Gali to register refugees who had returned spontaneously and root out so-called Georgian "partisans."

"U.N. doctors have seen at least 10 bodies, most of which showed signs of torture including pulled fingernails, bad burns and wounds apparently caused by red-hot bayonets and knives," Mr. Redmond said.

"U.N. doctors have also treated at least 35 people who suffered the types of torture just described or who were severely beaten," he added.

Local residents had reported finding at least another six bodies and an undetermined number of people were missing. The UNHCR was compiling a list of the missing, some of whom were believed to have been taken to the Abkhaz capital, Sukhumi and to Ochamchira.

Balladur bandwagon loses weight as premier flags

PARIS (R) — Political heavyweights who sang the praises of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur when he looked the runaway favourite to win the French presidency are turning increasingly critical as his campaign flounders.

The conservative premier has seen his lead in opinion polls melt away. Now he is trailing both rightist rival Jacques Chirac and Socialist Lionel Jospin, although many voters are still undecided about who to back in the April-May election.

Commentators caution that Mr. Balladur, overtaken by Mr. Chirac last month, might even slip further and be leapfrogged by extreme-right National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Mr. Balladur's main conservative backer and long seen as a potential kingmaker, stopped short of burying his champion but sharply criticised him in an interview with Tuesday's Le Monde.

In comments which amounted more to a reproach than friendly advice, Mr. Pasqua told the newspaper Mr. Balladur should embody "rupture" with the past — until now a taboo word in his campaign which has emphasised continuity with a record depicted as cautiously reformist.

"You don't get elected based on services rendered but on what you offer. He must lose some of his reserve and say how he sees France's future," Mr. Pasqua said later on France-2 Television, pointing to Mr. Balladur's image as an uptight patrician.

The conservative Le Figaro said Mr. Pasqua was the first to voice the concerns that many have revealed only in private — including Defence Minister Francois Leotard, centrist Education Minister Francois Bayrou, and Mr. Balladur's own spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy.

Mr. Pasqua even praised the fiery Mr. Chirac, who like Mr. Balladur is a member of the Rally for the Republic (RPR), for his dynamic campaign. Mr. Leotard called Mr. Chirac "a good candidate."

Mr. Balladur reacted with thinly-veiled irritation. "Rupture" was the wrong word, he told a radio interviewer, "embodying change" was better.

"The best way of embodying change is to have partly achieved it," he said.

But Mr. Balladur conceded that his position as prime minister since March last year had been somewhat of a handicap.

His government has been shaken by corruption probes which forced three ministers to resign and by a string of protests from students and fishermen, among others, which forced him into embarrassing climbdowns.

Mr. Balladur sought to turn the tables with a flurry of interviews and a surprise trip to the Loire Valley in central France Tuesday.

He also mailed invitations to thousands of Paris residents to an "everybody with Edouard" rally Saturday.

In an interview with the business daily La Tribune, he held out the carrot of wage rises. He said he had "always believed that wages in France were not high enough" and that now was the time to study possible increases given an economic upturn.

The most recent opinion poll indicates Mr. Chirac would win 29.5 per cent of the vote in the first round of the presidential election on April 23, followed by Jospin with 21 per cent and Balladur with 17.5. Mr. Chirac would beat either of the other two candidates in a run-off on May 7, the survey says.

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Averting an evil prospect

THE USE of Sarin nerve gas in a suspected attack on a Tokyo subway Tuesday is a dangerous escalation in the tactics of urban gangsters. Over and above the fact that this ominous deployment of a biological weapon on civilians is the first of its kind on this scale, it also ushers a new era in terrorist methods which can hardly be controlled in any effective way. The deadly gas, released in the midst of unsuspecting passengers, was also of a kind that is both colourless and odourless and could only be felt after it strikes. What makes the incident more ominous is the fact that the manufacture of the gas is within the grasp of any university chemistry graduate. Fortunately the casualty list was rather limited, eight people died and thousands of people were hospitalised. In different circumstances the toll could be higher.

There is no doubt that other extremists world-wide would draw conclusions from the Tokyo incident and may well duplicate that action for their own purposes. There is always a danger that terrorists would continue to upgrade their weaponry. It is no longer a far-fetched notion that major radical groups may buy or acquire small nuclear warheads or deadly gases with which they would hold many countries ransom.

This gloomy prospect calls for an effective remedy. To begin with, chemical, biological and nuclear arsenals should be more safely guarded. There are already many stories about Russian-made arms including the most sophisticated weapons being sold in the free market. The main objective should be to control and guard in an iron clad manner the technology for the development of such bombs. Also the transfer of such weapons and the technologies to produce them need to be more effectively secured and scrutinised. Given the complexity of these aims and the urgent need for a concerted international cooperation, we cannot think of a better way to arrive at these results other than holding an international conference of experts. That would probe all the possibilities and mechanisms of averting such a nightmare.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily in its editorial on Tuesday extolled Al Karamah battle, saying the battle will always be recorded in Jordan's history as a triumph over fear and defeat. The newspaper said the battle (in which Jordanian forces defeated a dawn attack launched by Israel in the Jordan Valley area on March 21, 1986) was not only a Jordanian achievement, but an achievement for Arabs and the Arab Nation's morale. It said the capabilities of the Jordanian armed forces in the battle were not then measured by the weapons the army had, but by faith, allegiance to the leadership and belonging to the homeland. This battle was one of the shining moments in the history of the country, its leadership and the courageous army, said the newspaper. It said the Kingdom's observance of the 27th anniversary of Al Karamah battle this year takes new dimensions since the peace Jordan fought and sacrificed for was achieved. It added that on this occasion, Jordanians do not only remember their martyrs and the bravery of their soldiers, but also remember the images of joy and happiness which spread in the mountains of Amman and the hills of Salt and Karak and all of Jordan.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said there was a conviction being enhanced daily that there is an instinctive hostility in the U.S. against Arabs as an ethnic group, regardless of the political stands or affiliations of these Arabs. Saleh Al Qallab said the latest evidence of that animosity was the campaign launched in the American Senate to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. He said the Americans, even those of them who support Israel more than they support their country, should remain neutral on this issue in view of the sensitive situation in the Middle East and in light of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in the final stage of their negotiations. He said it was understandable that the U.S. took the side of Israel during the cold war, but now since the majority of the Arabs recognised Israel, there was no need for this bias.

Washington Watch

Arab and Muslim Americans mobilised to defend U.S. Constitution

By Dr. James Zoghy

ARAB-AMERICANS and American-Muslims are launching a national campaign in the U.S. to oppose President Bill Clinton's executive order "prohibiting transactions with terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process" and the newly proposed legislation known as "the Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1995." This legislation was introduced in the U.S. Congress, at the behest of the Clinton administration, but will not be considered until April.

The principal concerns which Arab and Muslim Americans have with both the executive order and the proposed legislation is the danger that they present to the constitutionally protected rights of both U.S. citizens and foreign residents in the U.S.

It should be clear from the outset of the discussion of these administration initiatives that the overwhelming majority of both the Arab-American and American-Muslim communities do not support terrorism in any form. There is, however, a wide range of opinion within our communities about the peace process and there is some support for the charitable activity and the political beliefs of some Middle East groups which oppose that process.

The efforts by some pro-Israel activists here in the U.S. to link this charitable or political activity with support for terrorism amounts to a claim of "guilt by association" — something which is unacceptable.

While the work of Arab and Muslim American charities is small in comparison with the efforts of many other charities, they do provide support for many worthwhile humanitarian institutions in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian lands. At no time has any U.S. law enforcement agency suggested that any Arab-American or American-Muslim charity was directing its funds or using contributions for any but humanitarian purposes. Even in the wake of the campaign of early 1994 by some in the pro-Israel community to claim that Hamas was headquartered and primarily funded in the U.S., such law enforcement spokesmen who spoke to neutral newspapers were unequivocal in their denial of this or any related charge.

It is the concern of leaders in our communities that the intent of the executive order and the proposed legislation is more political than it is a real effort to stop terrorism in the U.S.

It appears, therefore, that in order to send a message — mainly to the Middle East — the administration and Congress have embraced this legislative effort without concern that in the process they are threatening to violate a wide range of civil rights guaranteed in the U.S.

The endangered rights are found in what is known as the "Bill of Rights." These are the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution and have been the basic law of the U.S. since 1791. In fact, the U.S. Constitution would not have been approved without a guarantee that these basic rights

would be added to it.

The Bill of Rights is a unique document valued around the world for the individual and groups rights which it guarantees. For example, the Bill of Rights provides for the following:

— The First Amendment prohibits the government from making any laws which limits freedom of speech, the press, and or which seeks to limit the people's right to freely assemble.

— The Fourth Amendment guarantees the right of people to be free from unreasonable searches or seizures of their property by the police unless the authorities show that they have probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed, and must show this proof to the courts to secure permission to conduct a legal search.

— The Sixth Amendment guarantees that any person accused of any crime has the right to a trial by a jury of their equals, the right to be presented with all the legal charges against them, and the right to face all those who present evidence against them.

While these rights and others are guaranteed in theory, they have not always been upheld in practice. In some dark periods of U.S. history there were efforts to abridge these freedoms. But, eventually the courts have always overturned laws that denied or limited people's rights, and in every instance the Constitution and the Bill of Rights have been victorious. Prior to those victories, however, innocent people have sometimes suffered.

The "Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1995" is another one of these challenges to the Bill of Rights. Several sections of the proposed legislation present clear challenges to guaranteed freedoms. If passed in its present form, the bill would:

— deny the "presumption of innocence" to those under investigation;

— allow for the government to conduct surveillance against individuals purely on the basis of their beliefs and associations; and

— deny to citizens the unfettered right to contribute to lawful and charitable humanitarian activities.

As I have said, Arab-Americans and American-Muslims support legislative efforts to combat terrorism and would support some parts of the currently proposed legislation that provide useful tools to law enforcement agencies dealing with some of the new technologies used by terrorists. But Arab-Americans and American-Muslims are so concerned with the challenges that the legislation presents to basic freedoms that we have launched our nationwide effort to remove these dangerous provisions from the legislation. This national campaign is called "Protecting America's Freedoms."

"Protecting America's Freedoms" is an effort to build a national coalition to educate public opinion, build broad

public support, and lobby both Congress and the administration on this important issue.

Our effort will be supported by most U.S. civil rights and civil liberties groups and by many U.S. ethnic and religious institutions. A recent poll sponsored by the Arab-American Institute showed that most Americans will oppose any effort to weaken the U.S. Constitution, even to combat an alleged terrorist threat to the U.S.

Even if passed through the Congress, most of the offending sections of the legislation will not probably be challenged in the U.S. courts and found unconstitutional. However, as I noted above, such challenges will require someone who has been arrested, charged, and convicted under the law to appeal that conviction — a lengthy process which will unfairly leave that person in prison until the law is overturned. So while such protection is nice to have, we cannot wait for the courts to do the job.

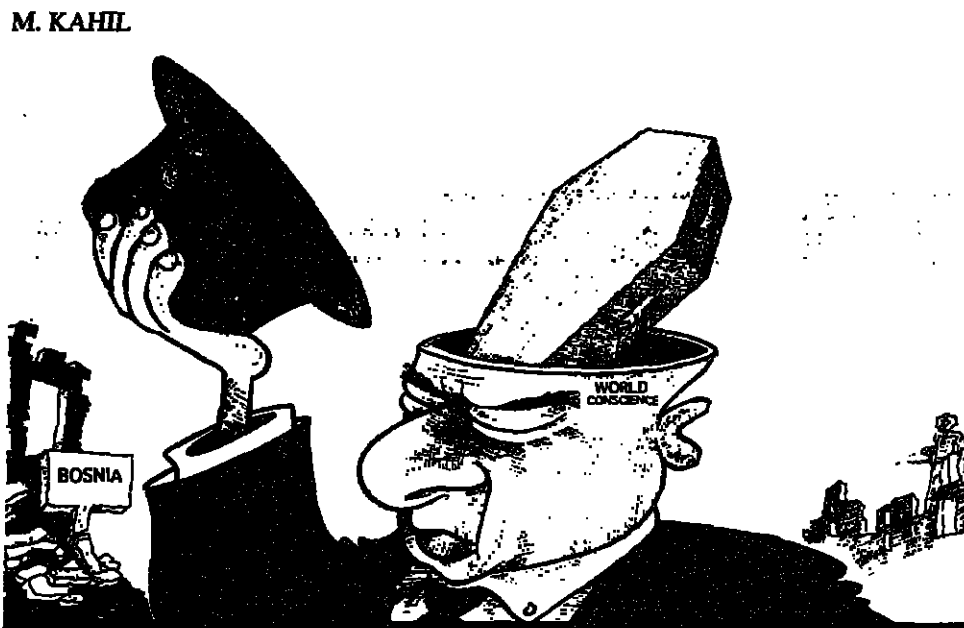
Arab-Americans and American-Muslims are committed to this effort to defend the U.S. Constitution and its guarantees of political rights. We know that these proposals are wrong. They can and will be changed.

In many ways this cause is critical to Arab and Muslim Americans. We have spent our political lives in the U.S. fighting for political issues that were viewed as unpopular by the foreign policy establishment — support for Palestinian statehood, opposition to Israel's invasion and bombing of Lebanon, and many more — all of which were, at times, denounced as "support for terrorism." Despite fierce opposition from pro-Israel groups, harassment by some government agencies and defamations in the media, we persisted because we knew that our concerns were important not only to the Arab World but to U.S. policy as well. And despite efforts to silence our views or lock us out of the political process, we continued — and we will continue — because the constitutionally protected freedoms guaranteed to all Americans defended our right to be heard.

In the past 25 years we won visibility, recognition and support. Now we will use whatever recognition we have won to support the Constitution that provided us with those rights.

At the same time, we will continue to mobilise our communities to vote and deepen their political participation in U.S. politics. In the end, the best way for any group to preserve its guaranteed freedoms is to become full and active partners in the political process.

As Arab-Americans and American-Muslims approach the 1996 legislative battle, we do so with a focus on the 1996 presidential elections. Defending the Constitution, defending our rights, gaining more political power, raising our voices about the need for a more active and balanced U.S. Middle East policy — those are our agenda points. We believe that they are necessary and important, now more than ever.



Israeli oppression does not discriminate between Muslims and Christians

By Pascal B. Karmay

A FEW weeks ago a news report said that eight United States Christian leaders, including the president of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, urged the Clinton administration to press Israel to stop annexing Arab land in Jerusalem and to place the question of Jerusalem higher on its agenda.

The highly respected Christian dignitaries, who represent all Christian communities in the U.S.A., issued a statement saying that: "In contravention of international law, more and more land is taken out of Palestinian hands and placed under Israel control by annexation, expropriation and private purchase often coercive or of questionable legality." The eight Christian dignitaries asked to meet President Clinton and to urge him to place the question of Jerusalem higher on his agenda. And in a separate statement, Cardinal William Keeler said he wanted to meet President Clinton "for the sake of the Christian population of Jerusalem and the region, whose historic presence has dwindled so dramatically in recent years."

It was indeed expected that such a frank and forthright statement emanating from esteemed Christian leaders of such a calibre would not please at all neither the U.S. Jewish leaders nor Israel. The former were angered at the statement. This is not surprising at all as Israel and

the Jewish leaders do not want the world to know the stark truth of what is happening in the West Bank, and particularly in Jerusalem, where Israel is feverishly and systematically stealing Arab land in Jerusalem area and forcing both Muslims and Christians out of their ancestral land as far as Bethlehem and Beit Sahour near Jerusalem.

After being deprived of their lands and means of livelihood during Israel's ruthless occupation since 1967, thousands of Muslims and Christians had to emigrate to the four corners of the earth. The Christian communities, which had lived in the holy land for centuries, being a minority and being forced to emigrate, have naturally dwindled dramatically as the Christian leaders' statement rightly mentions. As a result of this Christian emigration, many Christian churches have no congregations to worship in them and thus some of the churches stand as mere museums whether in Jerusalem itself or in its neighbouring towns such as Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Ain Karen. In the latter town, for example, there are exactly four churches and two convents and one monastery, but there is not one single Christian staying there as both Muslim and Christian inhabitants were expelled from their town. In this connection it may be mentioned that Ain Karen is the traditional abode of St John the Baptist, referred to in the Holy Koran as the Prophet Yahya. U.S. Jewish leader Edgar

Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said that the statement of the Christian leaders "harms the many advances that have been made in Christian-Jewish relations. I am disappointed that it was issued without proper Jewish consultation." Mr. Bronfman added that "the statement undermined the peace process in which both Israel and the PLO agreed that the status of Jerusalem was an issue to be resolved at the permanent status negotiations and not to be raised at this time."

With respect to Christian-Jewish relations, it must be mentioned that Jewish leaders in general have very often not maintained those good relations. They often kept up an unwarranted attack on Christians in general and in particular on the Catholic Church represented by the Vatican. Once they attacked Pope Pius XII in the play "The Vicar." He had been falsely accused by the Jewish leaders of overlooking Hitler's oppression of the Jews during World War II, especially when he was the Vatican envoy in Berlin in the 1930s. One may ask what an envoy do vis-a-vis Hitler's absolute power and dictatorship. Jewish leaders overlooked the fact that many Christian churches helped and protected thousands of Jews in Europe to escape from the Nazi persecution.

Some Jewish leaders and writers attacked the present Pope John Paul II for declaring, during his visit to Germany in May 1987, the beatification of Sister Tere-

sa Benedicta of the Cross who died in the Nazi concentration camp. She was of Jewish origin but long time before the war she was converted to Christianity. She taught at a convent school at Speyer in Germany and she lived and died as a Christian. Jewish leaders attacked the Vatican following the visit of ex-president Waldheim of Austria to the Vatican in 1987. Moreover, they never ceased to criticise the Vatican because it had refused for a long time to establish diplomatic relations with Israel prior to the recognition by Israel of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. The Vatican did establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish state after the PLO and Israel exchanged recognition of each other in 1993.

It is true, as Mr. Bronfman says, that according to the Oslo accord, the status of Jerusalem was to be resolved at the end of the negotiating process. But that does not mean that the Oslo provision gives licence to Israel in the mean-time to expropriate and confiscate Arab lands in Jerusalem so as not to leave any land in the end to negotiate about and in consequence to scatter the landowners to the four corners of the earth. It is Israel's actions in Jerusalem which preempt and prejudice the outcome of the permanent status negotiations; not the Christian leaders' statement which has rightly pointed out that "Israel's claim to sovereignty over Jerusalem preempts genuine negotiations."

NATO need not anger the bear

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON

Almost without anyone saying so, the way is being opened to a brightly beckoning goal of American diplomacy — to make an undivided Europe safe for democracy and to do so without leaving Russia angry and in the cold.

Not only is the United States with its allies moving deliberately to start bringing the former Soviet satellite nations into NATO, still the premier global security organisation and the lead lever of American influence in Europe. Washington is, at the same time, easing Russia's real and professed fears that alliance expansion would diminish its security.

If all this works out over the next year or so, the Clinton administration can fairly claim it is getting the best of both worlds on the central global issue — and central Clinton priority — of the future of Europe. Washington would be securing the gains democracy has made in Europe since the cold war ended and providing the security underpinning of a stable, integrated Europe — with Russia, but without an extended and disturbing Russian sphere of influence.

For a long time this looked to be a circle that couldn't be squared. Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and others, fearing to be squeezed by Russia, sought out the comforts of NATO membership. Moscow stiffened at what it claimed was the relentless movement of a potentially hostile alliance towards its borders. Washington seemed caught in the middle.

American and Russian diplomacy, however, are showing maturity. The United States keeps up a level of principled consistency in supporting NATO's expansion to other democratic states and in assuring Russian that expansion poses it no peril. The Yeltsin government is finding it possible to consider supports for Russian security other than by insisting that NATO take no new members aboard.

This could not have been easy for the Russian government, which faces political and nationalistic resistance in the military and in the Duma. Nonetheless, Boris Yeltsin has gone ahead to launch proposals that, he apparently be-

lieves, could allow his country to countenance the Atlantic alliance's eastward expansion.

The new proposals go beyond the idea that has been kicking around for some sort of compensatory special relationship between NATO and Russia. The Russian ambassador, Yuli Vorontsov, now speaks of a mutual nonaggression pact or pledge between the alliance and Moscow.

Moscow reportedly is also proposing restrictions on the deployment of nuclear arms and Western troops in Central Europe. Further, Moscow wants confirmation that Russia itself may eventually join. These matters are not universally or warmly accepted in parts of NATO and will require, but surely receive, much further diplomatic massage.

Some in Central Europe, and some of their friends among their American kin, remain fearful that the American government will succumb to Russian wiles and accept arrangements that compromise the independence of the Central Europeans.

The bargain now in the view — an expanding NATO, a reassured Russia — would transform several bedeviling issues. It could let the United States escape the ambiguities of NATO's Partnership for Peace — is it a step on the road to full membership or a dead-end substitute for membership? A Russia alert to the benefits of Central European stability presumably would be readier to see NATO take in not just the relatively easy cases of Poland, Hungary and the Czechs but the hard cases — including Ukraine and the Baltics. Otherwise, an ominous new line, the unsecured and the unsecured might again be drawn in Europe.

Three months ago, just about everybody was down on Russia — for poor performance on Chechnya reform etc. Now the Europe-NATO equation is becoming clearer, the national Monetary Fund finds Mr. Yeltsin's reform worth taking a big chance on, and Moscow has accepted human rights monitors in Chechnya. Things will go up and down in Russia for a long time. We should snare and exploit the better times.

The Washington Post

IRA supporters cold shoulder police despite ceasefire

By Shawn Pogatchnik
The Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — When Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers visited schools to warn children of the perils of talking to strangers, it jabbed a nerve in west Belfast. To militant Roman Catholics, the largely Protestant police force is as hated now as it was before the Irish Republican Army (IRA) began a ceasefire Sept. 1 in its campaign to end British rule.

At Vere Foster Primary School, protests prevented officers from the RUC's child protection unit from meeting with pupils after several attempted kidnappings in the area. Dozens of families signed Keenan's petition. "The RUC are attempting to use this proposed exercise as a propaganda ploy to try and show that they are acceptable in this area. They have not been, are not, and never will be."

Picketing parents shouted "child murderers RUC out" at Corpus Christi Secondary School, where plainclothes officers were believed mingling with the crowd at a student musical. Undercover cops have increasingly been moving about west Belfast, taking advantage of the IRA ceasefire to collect intelligence. Policing is only one of many difficult issues to be solved if Northern Ireland's strange new era of calm is to evolve into a durable peace. The proposals for the province's future announced Feb. 22 by the British and Irish governments did not tackle the policing issue, leaving it the responsibility of the British government.

For the first time since 1971, constables now patrol west Belfast without flak jackets, submachine guns or a bodyguard of British soldiers. On television, government ads urge the public: "Help the police keep the peace."

Mr. McMullan, 41, spent 14 years in prison on IRA charges and lost part of his right ear to a British army bullet in 1975. The police authority for Northern Ireland, an independent civilian body that oversees the RUC, is studying whether the force's name, oath and uniform should be changed to make it less overtly British. The authority plans public hearings this summer.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party, the province's largest Catholic-based party, advocates breaking up the RUC into regional forces, as in England. Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC commander, maintains his 12,000-officer force requires no reform. In the poor districts of Belfast, hardliners in both the Catholic and Protestant camps agree on one point: The RUC is an alien, middle-class force.

No police officer lives in west Belfast, and very few live in poor Protestant areas — a reflection both of their security fears and of their above-average wages, about 30,000 pounds with benefits. The IRA killed some 300 police officers the past 24 years, including three in 1994. The RUC killed about 120 people during "the troubles," the last an unarmed IRA man shot in November 1992 as he ran from a police checkpoint.

IRA supporters want their neighbours to treat the police as pariahs. Those who telephone the police face accusations of informing — and perhaps death. "Since the ceasefire, the IRA has stepped up 'punishment' beatings of local people accused of criminal activity for defying the IRA. In early February more than a dozen men suffered broken limbs, smashed fingers, cuts from nail-spiked clubs — telltale signs of paramilitary attacks. Most people still prefer to make contact by telephone, said chief inspector Bill Grange, a police officer in west Belfast. But he said more people are giving their names, which he called a sign of lessening suspicion.

Gore reaffirms U.S. commitment

(Continued from page 1)

ditional extension of the treaty in April — and noted that Israel and Egypt had launched a dialogue on the issue. In his speech at the RCC, attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, members of the Cabinet and Parliament, senior government officials and religious and community leaders, Mr. Gore said the U.S. vision of the economic development of the Middle East in a state of peace essentially focused on interaction among the private sectors. He pledged that the United States would help create free markets and economic relations throughout the Middle East. "There is enormous potential for commerce among Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians, Egypt and other countries," he said. He strongly suggested that the Amman economic summit would see definite projects materialising.

although he did not cite any specific figures. In October 1994, Mr. Clinton pledged \$75 million in American contributions to the capital of the bank. Since then, however, Jordanian, Egyptian, Palestinian and Israeli officials have met several times with American and European officials on the subject. It is believed that these meetings have produced an American pledge of an as-yet unannounced higher contribution to the bank. The vice-president recalled that President Clinton, in an Oct. 26 speech to the Jordanian Parliament, had pledged to help Jordan economically. "We have pledged to walk with you along the path of peace," Mr. Gore told the gathering.

Sharif Zeid, in a brief introductory address, welcomed Mr. Gore and said Jordan appreciated the U.S. commitment to peace in the Middle East. He said the Middle East, which for long has been a source of conflict, is entering a new phase of peace. Peace, security and democracy are prerequisites for economic development and hence Jordan is launching itself on all these fronts, said the prime minister. He also referred to Jordan's hopes of development in a state of peace and stability in the region, saying peace would be meaningful only if it brings about economic improvement, and implicitly

called for assistance to the Kingdom. Alluding to the Kingdom's defence requirements, the prime minister said: "A strong Jordan can preserve its security and its future... (and) face the challenges of the new era of peace." He also praised the Clinton administration's commitment to honouring its pledges to Jordan. Mr. Gore paid tribute to Jordan's democracy, saying that the Kingdom had built a "society devoted to pluralism and openness..." In a reference to the peace negotiations on the other tracks of the Middle East peace process, Mr. Gore said the "structure of peace... is not complete..." and that comprehensive peace in the region depended on bridging "the gulf (of differences) between Israel and Syria."

Mr. Gore, paying his first visit to Jordan, said his government was also determined to fight extremists who oppose the peace process. "The forces of terror who seek to destroy the peace must not and will not be allowed to succeed," Mr. Gore said. "The U.S. stands by those who work for peace, we will not relax our vigilance against those who oppose our common vision of a better future for the Middle East." "Peace-loving nations and their citizens must join (hands) in eliminating these destructive forces," he said. "The deaths and woundings which resulted from the brutal attack last Sunday on the bus outside Hebron stand as a bloody testimony of the dangers which still threaten the peace process," Mr. Gore said.

"This is also a clear testimony for the need to persevere," on the part of all parties involved with the peace process, he said. Mr. Gore, who leaves for Saudi Arabia, received a red-carpet welcome at Queen Alia International Airport in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Shaker and other senior officials. Mr. Gore is the second high-ranking U.S. leader to visit Jordan since October, when the Kingdom and Israel signed a historic peace treaty in the presence of President Clinton.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor and Mrs. Tipper Gore, wife of the U.S. vice-president, during a visit Mrs. Gore paid to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Tipper Gore: A wife, a mother and the second lady of the U.S.

By Daphne Barak

"I ADVISE couples to play with each other, light candles in the bath, go out to a romantic dinner..." This prescription for a happy marriage doesn't come from a marriage counsellor, but from the Second Lady of the United States, the wife of the Vice President of the United States, Tipper Gore. The television interview I held with her on Thursday, March 2, 1995, was one of the rare interviews she has given since she entered the White House. Having learned from the experience of the First Lady of the U.S. as a result of her aggressive image, Mrs. Gore prefers to play a modest part, to emphasise her role as a wife and mother, and to project a respectable image. Following is the text of the interview:

Q: What should I call you?

A: Call me Mrs. Gore, so people will know...

Q: And how would you describe yourself: the Second Lady of the United States?

A: I'm a woman, a wife, a mother, and also — the Second Lady of the United States.

Q: Are you enjoying it?

A: Very much. Because I have an influence. Because of this title, because of the power of this place (the White House — D.B.), I'm continuing to do the things I've done all my life working for children and for the needy, but today I have more influence, and the results are commensurate with this.

Q: Could you give me a description of a day in your life?

A: Each day is special. There is no day that's exactly like another. That's why I'm enjoying it so much: I exercise in the morning, I try to eat healthy food, I come to the office in the White House for meetings. Sometimes I go on trips within the U.S., and between all that — I might go to watch my son's basketball game.

Q: Do you choose the issues you deal with, or does someone else?

A: Such as who?

Q: Mrs. Clinton?

A: I choose! I decide

which issues I want to be involved in. The truth is that I chose these fields — children and social issues — a long time ago. My background is in psychology. I always wanted to work with children, but although I've written a book and given lectures — my family has always held first place. Another field I've always had an interest in is photography. I take a camera almost everywhere I go, and I document everything.

Q: Which countries will you visit?

A: Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia. I've already visited Israel twice and I have friends there. I've already visited Cairo as well. But I'm curious about visiting Oman and Saudi Arabia. There's this body that's called "Gore-Mubarak," which is led by my husband and by the President of Egypt, and it's especially dear to us and important for the region.

Q: Not long ago, President Clinton and his wife visited the region.

A: Yes?

Q: Being Second Lady isn't easy in general, but being Second Lady to Hillary Clinton — that's probably a handful...

A: It's easy. I take it easily. It's also an honour. I relate to her not only in my capacity as the vice president's wife, I try to give her advice, to be a friend, to be there for her when she needs it. Look, this is a woman who had high expectations, and tremendous demands, from herself as well as from those around her. It's a challenge...

Q: When I saw the two of you during the election campaign, you were trying to exhibit a sort of sisterly bond of friendship. Are you still such good sisters?

A: This friendship, I feel, is still there. Part of the relationship between me and her (Hillary — D.B.) is natural. And a part — it's simply our decision, both of us decided we weren't going to let the external world, the press, rumours, etc., spoil it for us.

Q: How do you really explain the unpre-

cedented attacks on Bill and Hillary Clinton? I don't remember any president of the U.S. or any First Lady who were subjected to such virulent attacks, and on a personal level at that?

A: Maybe... maybe it's because we're a younger generation. This is a president from a new generation. Maybe people feel it's more permissible. Besides, we're living today in such an aggressive period, so full of cruelty. Even children don't want to see so much violence on the television screen. I think President Clinton and his wife are coping well with the presidency, considering the atmosphere, the attacks...

Q: In a game of associations, if I were to mention your name — right away people would jump up and say: "Tipper Gore? She fought against something connected with music..." What was it exactly that made you angry?

A: I'm glad to have this chance to explain: I wanted to give children, young people who buy discs, the chance to know what was inside them: Cruelty? or sex? — that they should know beforehand! So that's why I demanded a classification of the discs according to types. This became the brunt, of course, of many interpretations in the media.

Q: And now — are you still occupied with that?

A: "No, we won! Now it's done that way. There are labels on every disc. That's it."

Q: And in a game of associations, they would say of your husband: "Al Gore? He's so dry. He doesn't have a shred of a sense of humour?"

A: I think the rumour that he has a fantastic sense of humour has already spread. He's a very funny man, but maybe this should be kept a secret?

Q: How do you maintain so much enthusiasm?

A: Do you want the truth? This coming May my husband and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary. I can hardly believe it. It still makes me emotional

every time I think about it.

Q: Well, in the troubled waters of politics, how do you manage it?

A: Listen, you have to work on it. Couples should make time and play with each other. They should enjoy each other. Sometimes work can be exhausting, the daily routine leaves you with no energy. But that's just when it's important to invest in the relationship — you should use candles in the bath, or go out to a romantic dinner...

Q: At the beginning of the race to the White House, your husband was a candidate. Do you regret he didn't stay in the race?

A: No.

Q: Being so close to the most powerful government position in the world, what do you know today that you didn't know before?

A: A lot! It's fascinating. Beforehand I knew about the power that was involved, but every day I discover the power as well as the responsibility. It's a very special feeling: Being a witness to the unfolding of history, and a witness from such a good vantage point...

Q: Will you be First Lady?

A: I don't know. You can never know what the future holds.

Q: Will you want to be?

A: I've learned not to prophesy the future. It could very well happen, but there's no way of knowing.

Q: What did you want to be, when you were a girl?

A: I wanted to work in the Fire Department.

Q: Why?

A: I wanted to help people, to be a heroine, to save them from their troubles. That's actually what I'm doing today. My dream was either to be a firewoman, or to be a cowboy. I almost realised it.

Daphne Barak's interviews are broadcast on television networks and are published in newspapers in America, Europe and the Middle East.

Israel bars Gaza vehicles

(Continued from page 1)

the truck Monday evening near Tel Sheva, an Arab village in southern Israel. The officers' suspicion was aroused because the truck bore Gaza licence plates. "By finding the bomb a major attack was aborted," police chief Assad Hefetz told Israeli army radio Tuesday.

with a crowbar, said police spokesman Erik Bar-Chen. Another Palestinian suspect was caught Tuesday morning after hiding overnight in a mosque in Tel Sheva, police said. Police were investigating whether a third suspect aided the bombers.

A military spokesman announced that the army would stop all vehicles from the Gaza Strip from entering Israel until further notice. The measure will severely disrupt commercial life in the impoverished territory. The truck came through the heavily-guarded Erez crossing from the Gaza Strip just hours before being found, police said.

Russia

(Continued from page 1)

William Perry told reporters on Monday during a visit to Saudi Arabia that: "Iran's military capabilities go beyond its defensive needs, which constitute a danger to the Gulf states." But Russian Ambassador in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oleg Derkovsky said: "Our experts have come to a conclusion that the two submarines will not upset the military balance in the Gulf. We care for maintaining this balance."

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said meanwhile Tehran will not give up its claim to three Gulf islands at the centre of a sovereignty dispute with the United Arab Emirates, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. Iran and the UAE have been locked in a stalemate over Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb Islands since 1992.

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Turkish forces move deep into Iraq

(Continued from page 12)

pe. France currently chairs the EU's rotating presidency. Mr. Juppe, speaking at the closing of a two-day conference on stability in Europe, said France had pointed out to the Ankara government that it was not respecting these principles in light of the operation.

A U.S.-led allied air force, set up to protect Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq after the Gulf war, cancelled its routine flights for a second day, said Captain Grant Satter, a spokesman at Incirlik base in southern Turkey. The U.S. government said it was supportive of the offensive but appealed for Turkey to spare civilian lives. Turkey has drawn international criticism for alleged human rights abuses in its war on Kurdish rebels.

Troops reportedly forced some Kurdish refugees back to Turkey, the U.N. refugee agency said. The agency did not give a number and said it was awaiting confirmation of the report, said Rupert Colville, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Some 13,000 Kurds recently came to the area, saying they had fled villages forcibly evacuated by Turkish troops fighting the guerrillas. Turkey kept its Habur border passing with Iraq closed, and a line of Turkish trucks snaked back for 130 kilometres from the border. The border is about three hours' drive from this main city in southeastern Turkey.

building their future and countries," she added. Ms. Damen-Masri said there were two important problems that need to be tackled on a national level: poverty and unemployment. "It is time we realise that we need to have comprehensive participation between the private and public sectors and organisations to confront the poverty and unemployment problems," she said.

Pierre Beaudet of the CEAD said that the seminar was an excellent opportunity to look at some of the most pressing issues concerning the development of the region.

"There are social and economic gaps which are growing in the North and South and new and creative solutions are indeed urgently demanded," Mr. Beaudet said.

According to Mr. Beaudet, the collapse of Eastern Europe has demonstrated that the old statist paradigm has failed. On the long run, he said, development without democracy is doomed. He said that one dimension of the solutions will be to challenge the present unequal order which is putting

J.S. Senate move raises concern

(Continued from page 1)

hat the American congressmen's move, if implemented, would not only violate the United Nations Security Council resolutions but would also have serious repercussions on the peace process.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in their September 1993 declaration of principles, have agreed to put off negotiations on the status of Jerusalem until 1996.

The senators' letter to Mr. Christopher said: "We believe that the United States Embassy belongs in Jerusalem. It would be most appropriate for planning to begin now to ensure such a move" by May 1999.

Senators Moynihan and D'Amato noted that the House of Representatives as well as the Senate have in the past approved non-binding resolutions calling on the United States to acknowledge Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Reuters reported.

"United States policy should be equally clear and unequivocal," said the letter.

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Economy

Petrol prices double as government urges austerity

Rafsanjani says Iran in no need for foreign help

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian President Akbar Rafsanjani told his people on Tuesday that Iran was doing well and did not need to rely on foreign help to run its economy.

He said in an address to the nation broadcast on television and on radio that Iran could become "completely self-sufficient from an economic point of view" with the second five-year development plan which started on Tuesday.

"In the past, we witnessed a highly threatening dependence on foreign countries," he said. "But today, every day our people are putting an end to this dependence on foreign countries," he said. "We have surplus produc-

tion, which we export ... demand for foods is fast being fully supplied by home markets ... raw material for energy as well as our need for expert manpower are supplied by our domestic markets," the official IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.

Our demand for weapons are met principally by our own domestic producers," President Rafsanjani said.

He said Iran's success and independence provoked anger and spite among its enemies, naming the United States and Israel, "and they consequently engage in obnoxious defamatory propaganda ... to manipulate the people. But ... confronted with this propaganda, our people become more resolute."

The United States has cal-

led on its allies not to deal with Iran's Islamic government and this month banned American firms from making oil development deals with Iran.

Iran reacted by saying it did not need U.S. cooperation.

President Rafsanjani said national reconstruction would have a faster tempo during Iran's second development plan because it would be less reliant on imported material.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Iranians to institute "economic and financial discipline."

He called on people to "avoid unnecessary expense" and "over-the-top consumption" and asked the government to work for the fair distribution of wealth.

The country's two-year crisis has seen its short — and

medium-term debt soar to \$36 billion together with a backlog of repayments and the collapse of the value of the rial.

Meanwhile the price of petrol and most oil products doubled in Iran Tuesday in a government move to increase revenue and reduce consumption on the day Iranians began their New Year celebrations.

The price of petrol jumped from 50 rials to 100 rials a litre (1.2 U.S. cents to 2.5 cents) as Iran remains one of the world's cheapest countries for petrol despite the rise.

Domestic fuel rose from 10 to 20 rials gasoline from 20 to 40 rials and super from 70 to 140 rials.

The price rise, the first in three years, is only just above the inflation rate. Oil Minis-

ter Gholamreza Aghazadeh said its impact on economic activity and price rises would be "minimal."

Iran is hoping to reduce the burden of its subsidies for oil products, estimated at \$10 billion a year.

The government also wants to dampen domestic demand which has increased by around 10 per cent a year in the last five years. Consumption now stands at 1.1 million barrels per day — a third of Iran's total crude production.

Iranian leaders have repeatedly warned about the consequences of high domestic consumption which drains the amount of crude available for export.

Eighty per cent of Iran's foreign currency comes from exports at a time when the country is facing a serious financial crisis.

Italy's Ruggiero set to head WTO as U.S. lifts opposition

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States lifted its opposition to Italian candidate Renato Ruggiero Tuesday, clearing the way for his confirmation as first head of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The White House said that Washington had agreed to accept Mr. Ruggiero, ending weeks of speculation and an embarrassing international deadlock which has seen the new organisation in operation for almost three months without a head.

Commenting on a press conference by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor scheduled at the White House later in the day, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said "he is expected to announce the U.S. support for Ruggiero."

The former Italian trade minister had breakfast with Mr. Kantor Tuesday, and then met at the White House with members of the National Economic Council.

The U.S. decision to accept the European Union's candidate ended weeks of deadlock and came after both other candidates pulled out.

First to go was the U.S. nominee, former Mexican president Carlos Salinas, who withdrew his candidacy earlier this month, his image damaged by the collapse of the Mexican peso and the arrest of his brother in connection with allegations of murder.

But Washington refused to give its support to clear front-runner Ruggiero, and at one point even hinted it wanted a fourth candidate to come forward.

The sole remaining candidate, Kim Chul-su of South Korea, pulled out Tuesday, leaving only Mr. Ruggiero in

the race.

Mr. McCurry refused to say if Washington had demanded any concessions in return for lifting its opposition to Mr. Ruggiero.

But diplomats in Geneva said that the United States had decided to back Mr. Ruggiero, 65, on condition that he be installed for four years only and that his successor be drawn from outside Europe.

A European Union (EU) spokesman in Brussels, however, said the EU had not accepted such a condition and remained "open-minded" on the matter.

He said that the EU commissioner responsible, Leon Brittan, did not believe that top international posts should be kept in the hands of particular interests.

Tuesday's U.S. decision finally gives the WTO a leader, but the nine months of ill-tempered wrangling over who should get the post revealed rifts in the ambitions of the different regions of the world and seem to have spelt the end of European supremacy in international trade monitoring since the GATT was created on Jan. 1, 1948.

Disagreement has delayed the appointment of the first WTO head three times, and the member countries asked

the last director general of the GATT, Peter Sutherland of Ireland, to extend his temporary stay in the head post until April 30.

The WTO was intended to be a strengthened version of the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and was brought into existence by the Uruguay Round of trade tariff-cutting negotiations.

But the discord over who should nurture the new organisation into effective existence was beginning to undermine the credibility of the exercise, and highlighted the problems inherent in decision-making on a purely consensus basis by a group of more than 100 countries.

The United States was suspicious of Mr. Ruggiero, holding that he was unduly protectionist. But U.S. officials had expressed the same view of Mr. Kim.

Meanwhile, South Korea, reflecting a view widely held by other countries in the Asian region, held that Asia had been under-represented at the GATT and that it was time for Asia to obtain a status equivalent to its newfound weight in world trade.

An official decision to appoint Mr. Ruggiero could be reached by WTO members by the end of the week.

Ireland's Quinn says no quick fix to money mayhem

BRUSSELS (R) — The only chance for turmoil on world money markets is to make economies work better and

"Severe a system to spot problems before they become crises," Irish Finance Minister Charles J. Quinn said Tuesday.

"There is a problem how to react to this. The view on Monday was that we need to make our economies converge and press on with real integration of the single market," Mr. Quinn told reporters the day after a meeting of European Union (EU) finance ministers. "There is no quick fix."

French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery, who chaired Monday's meeting, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the

Group of Seven industrialised nations should tackle the issue at their meetings in Washington at the end of April.

But Mr. Quinn said it was clear that there was no agreement on what could be done.

"There is no shared analysis on intervention," he said, referring to some calls for new accords along the lines of the 1985 Plaza agreement and 1987 Louvre accord which set the stage for concerted support of the dollar.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke Monday flatly ruled out any return to such intervention accords.

Mr. Quinn said the problems on money markets which have seen the dollar

sink to record lows, the mark skyrocket and the peseta and escudo forced to devalue, stemmed from the U.S. currency's steady loss of status since the cold war ended.

"During the cold war... with a bipolar confrontation, the dollar developed a status as a reserve currency. Since the Berlin Wall came down and communism collapsed that status has been steadily eroded and money has moved into the yen and the mark," he said.

He warned that Germany could not cut interest rates to help ease pressure on European currencies and that U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration, at mid-term, had no political stomach to take the measures necessary to

support the dollar.

Mr. Quinn said Philippe Maystadt, Belgian finance minister and chairman of the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee, had suggested the IMF could monitor national economies to find problem areas early, much as the EU monitors its own economies.

He rejected claims the turmoil had derailed the EU's plans to replace national currencies with a single money within four years, but also cautioned against those people who said the monetary mayhem meant plans had to be speeded up.

"There will be a monetary union. No one can predict with any certainty when it

will happen, but there is no question that it will happen," Mr. Quinn said.

"It is the next step in the European project. It is first and foremost a political objective. The fact that the timetable looks in some ways unachievable does not invalidate in any way the project," he said, adding that even Britain would eventually see reason and come aboard.

"The Maastricht (treaty) ratification process showed that the political elite had got way ahead of public opinion. There are Eurosceptics in every country that is why I say we should go gradually forward taking people with us, not, as some suggest, rushing into it," Mr. Quinn said.

He said the monetary union would eventually see reason and come aboard.

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Poverty still looms as biggest problem in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — After years of stagnation, a sustained economic recovery finally seems to be taking hold in the Philippines, but widespread poverty remains the most intractable problem the government faces.

Many Filipinos, particularly those in rural areas, remain unaffected by the economic rebound.

Tens of thousands still leave the country each year in search of jobs overseas to support their families back home, while many of those remaining live a hand-to-mouth existence.

Senate minority floor leader Ernesto Maceda, president of the right-wing opposition Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), charges that the recovery is felt "only in boardrooms and the Philippine

stock exchange."

Government officials counter that there is always a lag of a few years before the effects of economic recovery are felt. President Ramos remains confident that by 1998, at the end of his term, only 20 per cent of the population will live in poverty.

Most economists say about 45 per cent of the population of 65 million lives below the poverty-line.

President Ramos eschews any general welfare programme or radical redistribution of wealth to curtail poverty and instead pins his hopes on his "Philippines 2000" programme, a scheme to boost the economy through deregulation, fiscal prudence and construction of infrastructure in underdeveloped areas.

Under President Ramos, a

West Point-trained, former military and police chief, the country's gross national product (GNP) grew by 5.1 per cent in 1994 after 2.3 and one per cent growth in 1993 and 1992 respectively.

He has ended a crippling power shortage that caused daily electrical outages in much of the country in 1993 and liberalised key industries, such as telecommunications, banking and inter-island shipping, resulting in a sharp improvement in services as competition increased.

But even Senate President Edgardo Angara, who has formed an alliance with President Ramos, admits that "the top social issue is the wide gap between the rich and the poor."

The meeting, coming on the heels of the Mexican peso crisis that sent shockwaves

EU, Latin America to study shield against speculators

PARIS (R) — The European Union (EU) and Latin America, worried by the damage speculative capital movements could inflict on their economies, have agreed to an early study of mechanisms to control massive capital shifts on financial markets.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said ministers of the EU and Latin American countries of the Rio Group meeting in Paris would together weigh the problem but had not considered any specific steps.

"These massive transfers of capital threaten the stability of our economies. We must think together about mechanisms to control these movements," he told a news conference.

The meeting, coming on the heels of the Mexican peso crisis that sent shockwaves

through world financial markets, concluded that speculative capital movements could hurt efforts to open up markets, stabilise and revive emerging economies.

"The (foreign) ministers of the Rio Group felt it necessary to begin as soon as possible to study mechanisms that would be capable of counteracting such effects without obstructing the flow of worldwide investment movements," a final statement said.

Mr. Juppe, who holds the rotating chair of the European Union, said the meeting of 15 EU and 14 Latin American states did not go deeper into the issue.

He had earlier sought to enlist Latin America's support for a reform of the international monetary system to

shield the world economy from financial market upheavals.

"This (Euro-Latin American) dialogue is... necessary to allow us to seek jointly the path to lasting stability, including the reform of the international monetary system that France has been calling for and which all will have to accept sooner or later," he said.

Mr. Juppe said European economic and monetary union, intended to lead to a single European currency by 1999 at the latest, was an example for Latin America.

"In an uncertain world, improved predictability is needed to enable coherent development without endangering economic and social progress," Mr. Juppe said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



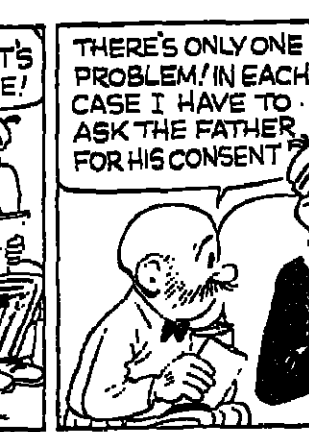
THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Bus stops in Amman to have Europe-like shades

★ THE PUBLIC Transport Corporation (PTC) and the Municipality of Greater Amman have contracted a local company to build over 500 shades at various bus stops in Amman. Similar to those in European capitals, illuminated signs can be placed on these shades which will be provided with modern seats. Placards showing direction for buses and areas served will be posted on these shades. The company undertaking the project started to build the first shade as a "sample" in front of the PTC building. Fifty more sites have initially been specified to build shades on them in the first stage which will commence soon. A portion of the fees on the illuminated signs will go to the PTC and the municipality (AJ Ra'i).

★ THE PRICE of a plate of hommos (chickpeas), which was recently increased to 250 fils, has shot up to 500 fils while a one-kilogramme can of tahineh (liquid sesame) went up from 160 fils to 190 fils. Restaurant owners are saying that the old prices are no longer profitable and that they are unable to adhere to the prices put by the Ministry of Supply. An importer said that international prices for chickpeas have fluctuated between \$400 to \$800 per tonne over the past few months but today (Monday) the price of low quality chickpeas jumped to \$1,100 (JD 900) a tonne. The international price of sesame ranged between \$350 and \$970 a tonne until yesterday (Monday) when it surged to \$1,100 a tonne. Prices of coffee, dubbed as the "drinkable dollar," are also unstable and, according to an importer, it is very difficult to fix a price even for one day. He said that there are over 150 kinds of coffee with prices ranging between \$3,400 to \$4,500 a tonne. A kilogramme is now selling at between a low of JD 4.400 and a high of JD 6 (AJ Ra'i).

★ THE ITALIAN Institute for Foreign Trade (IIFT) opened an office in Amman to activate commercial ties between Jordan and Italy. IIFT is a government institution directly linked to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade. A high priority for the IIFT is to explore for joint ventures between businessmen from both countries (AJ Aswag).

★ THE NATIONAL Aid Fund's board of directors decided to give an extra JD 10 to all beneficiaries of its recurrent assistance scheme. As such, the highest amount given to a family becomes JD 60 and the lowest JD 30. About 32,000 families will benefit from the increase which will amount to JD 430,968. As such, the overall amount of aid to be distributed this year will rise from JD 916,956 to JD 1,347,924 (AJ Dastour).

★ DESPITE LOWER sales in 1994, the Woollen Industries Company (WIC) made about JD 100,000 profit before tax. With 50 per cent to go for income tax, the company will be left with JD 50,000 net profit compared with JD 39,763 net profit recorded in 1993. Sales amounted to about JD 800,000 last year compared to JD 1.04 million in 1993. WIC Board Chairman Jamil Maraga said the company did not sign any contract for export last year and that all the output was sold in the local market. He said WIC might distribute dividends at eight per cent compared to five per cent dividends in 1993. WIC raised its capital by JD 250,000 last year to become JD 1 million. The capital increase was used to update equipment and to open a permanent showroom for WIC products at a cost of JD 100,000 (AJ Aswag).

City of London sees bright future — report

LONDON (R) — The City of London financial district is confident it can remain a leading player in global markets despite the collapse of Barings and planned European monetary union, according to a report.

The City Research Project has examined all aspects of life in London's financial market over the past three years, running from market regulation to public transport.

Its conclusions are published in the same month that Barings collapsed under the weight of faulty market trades.

But the report — "an exercise in counter-complacency," according to Stanislas Yassukovich, who chaired the project — sees no threat to London's preeminence as a financial centre.

Concentration in financial services is speeding up, and London's specialist labour force, its international outlook and its "pragmatic tax and regulatory framework" leave the city well placed to see off competition from other European capitals.

Mr. Yassukovich played down the implications of the Barings collapse in a briefing to foreign journalists, and takes the same message to New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong this week.

London was the biggest world centre for some financial markets, he said, and "the biggest intersections have the most accidents."

Poor market supervision has taken some of the blame for the Barings debacle. But Professor Richard Brealey of the London Business School, who directed the project, seemed more concerned that the "benignly regulated centre" that London is now was coming under threat from Europe.

With the shift in decision-making to Brussels, decisions on market regulation could become more politicised, which would threaten the city, he told an audience of City practitioners.

Economic and monetary union (EMU) in Europe was one of the principal uncertainties facing the city, the report said.

But Mr. Yassukovich said that if Britain joined any union at an early stage London could be the Wall Street of Europe, and the Bank of England, as a constituent of a European central bank, could be like the U.S. Federal Reserve's New York branch, its main arm in implementing monetary policy via New York markets.

And if Britain stayed out, as looks increasingly likely, there was an upside.

"If the EMU member countries adopt onerous reserve requirements or other restrictive practices... London could capture a large volume of off-shore European banking business without losing its non-EMU business share," he said.

Kuwait fails to end oil strike

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Workers at Kuwait's biggest oil company stayed out on strike for the fourth day Tuesday after the government failed to defuse the crisis which threatens the emirate's crude production.

Mohammad Al Sarhan, union leader at the state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), said workers representatives met the minister of social affairs, Ahmad Al Kleib, Monday but the meeting "failed."

Sheikh Kleib had arranged a meeting with KOC managers who insisted on an end to the strike or referring the

dispute to court. "We rejected both solutions," Sheikh Sarhan said.

Any government moves to end the strike before "we get what we want is a waste of time. They will be the big losers," he added.

Some 1,200 KOC workers went on an indefinite strike Saturday demanding better working conditions and regular promotions.

The union insists that Kuwait's oil production of two million barrels per day (b/d) has fallen by 50,000 b/d since the start of the strike and that it would plunge further.

Sheikh Sarhan also said he was afraid that "serious technical problems" would arise because the 300 engineers and technicians drafted in by the KOC from its maintenance department to replace the strikers were "not well-trained."

He warned: "I've been working in this business for 20 years and I know that any technical problem might lead to a disaster if it is not well-handled."

He also charged that the level of mineral salts in the company's crude output had risen to an unacceptable level.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 21/03/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	660	123760	187.500	187.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2281	46106	4.220	4.230
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	1569	6656	4.230	4.250
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	8050	11094	1.360	1.400
THE HOUSING BANK	7150	43186	6.040	6.040
JORDAN GULF BANK	4900	5885	1.200	1.210
ARAB INVESTMENT BANK	2000	7000	3.520	3.500
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	6102	22919	3.750	3.770
BUSINESS BANK	1400	4577	3.220	3.300
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4526	49196	1.070	1.090
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	7900	9726	1.230	1.230
BANKS SECTOR	94638	324064	INDEX NUMBER: 158.13	CHANGE: +0.147
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	14100	36161	2.470	2.510
INSURANCE SECTOR	14100	35161	INDEX NUMBER: 136.52	CHANGE: +0.197
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	7383	11503	1.560	1.560
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	15050	22274	1.480	1.480
ARAB HOTEL & TOURISM	59067	415592	6.900	6.850
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2200	11196	5.000	5.100
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	3123	15144	4.850	4.850
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	8950	26444	2.950	2.920
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	600	1160	1.950	1.920
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	150	165	1.070	1.100
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	5650	5088	900	910
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI	100	1075	11.250	10.750
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMPOSITE HOTELS	200	448	2.220	2.260
ARAB INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	750	2538	3.390	3.380
SERVICES SECTOR	103223	512665	INDEX NUMBER: 126.10	CHANGE: -0.507
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	9111	27239	3.000	2.990
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	1150	5175	4.500	4.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	279	2553	9.200	9.150
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	750	2623	3.500	3.490
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	2600	20720	7.400	7.400
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	8450	33816	4.030	4.020
JORDAN DAIRY	180	379	2.100	2.110
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	2350	2326	6.200	6.200
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	2000	8000	4.000	4.000
THE PUBLIC MINING	900	1466	2.860	2.920
RAFA, INDUSTRIES	5500	14866	2.720	2.700
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3658	27509	7.570	7.520
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	4900	4131	840	860
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	4750	29862	6.280	6.300
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	28900	17981	6.620	6.620
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	5700	7925	1.390	1.410
JORDAN ROCCOOL INDUSTRIES	2000	1057	1.030	1.050
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	1700	1112	1.650	1.680
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	2850	3213	1.310	1.310
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1500	3140	2.090	2.080
KANTHER INVESTMENT	100	158	1.630	1.580
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	22100	75868	3.540	3.540
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	750	15550	1.940	1.970
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	118888	311567	INDEX NUMBER: 127.99	CHANGE: -0.167
GRAND TOTAL	330849	1183457	INDEX NUMBER: 139.33	CHANGE: -0.027
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		91681		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		114257		

Airbus sees \$1,000b world airliner market

LONDON (R) — The world's largest airlines are expected to buy around 13,000 new jet airliners in the next 20 years, worth around \$1,000 billion, European planemakers Airbus Industrie said Tuesday.

"Despite the crisis the aviation community has gone through in the past year, this forecast clearly demonstrates that air transport is a growth industry," said the company's senior vice-president John Leahy at a presentation.

In its first global market forecast for three years, Airbus predicts the world's 214 largest airlines will require some 15,000 passenger jets in the period from 1995 to 2015 to replace ageing fleets and meet increasing demand for air travel.

Airbus said with some 1,600 of these aircraft already ordered by airlines, which account for 1,350, and leasing companies accounting for 250, the actual open market for additional new sales is some 13,400, worth \$1,000 billion at current values.

Australia to resume sheep exports to Saudis

CANBERRA (R) — Australia said Tuesday it would resume live sheep exports to Saudi Arabia, four-and-a-half years after Saudi authorities rejected a boatload of old and diseased Australian sheep and stopped the trade.

Primary Industries Minister Bob Collins said Australia's sheep exporters had agreed to a set of strict conditions set by Saudi authorities and a shipment of the animals would leave for Saudi Arabia as early as next month.

"I'm pleased to announce that Australia is to recommence the live sheep trade with Saudi Arabia," Mr. Collins told parliament.

Saudi and Australian officials had met over recent months and a clear understanding now existed of the necessary requirements for the resumption of live sheep exports, he said.

"The Australian industry is

Of these, up to 15 per cent may be taken up by used aircraft.

The forecast covers the market for aircraft with more than 70 seats and excludes demand in the former Soviet Union.

Airbus said it expects worldwide demand for air travel to continue to grow strongly, at an average annual rate of 5.1 per cent, leading to a tripling in current passenger traffic over the next 20 years. The growth will vary, it said, from region to region.

The mature North American domestic market will grow at an annual average rate of 3.7 per cent, Asia-Pacific will show seven per cent growth and China, starting from a low base, 10 per cent.

The four members of the Airbus consortium are the Deutsche Aerospace (DASA) unit of Germany's Daimler-Benz A.G. France's Aerospatiale, British Aerospace PLC and Spain's Construcciones Aeronauticas (CASA).

confident that it will be able to supply live sheep in full compliance with the tough conditions that have been established," he said.

Each shipment will have to be accompanied by a veterinarian, it will have to go directly to Saudi Arabia and the sheep must conform with strict age requirements.

"The access to the premium Saudi live sheep market will potentially add another 20 million Australian dollars (\$14.6 million) to Middle East trade per year," Mr. Collins said.

Before the trade was stopped in November, 1990, Australian live sheep exports to Saudi Arabia were worth 150 million Australian dollars (\$109 million).

Middle East countries account for most of the 5.6 million live sheep Australia is expected to export in the year to June 30, 1995.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4070/80	Canadian dollar	1.3960/70
	1.3960/70	Deutschmarks	1.5652/62
	1.5652/62	Dutch guilders	1.6000/10
	1.6000/10	Swiss francs	28.53/87
	28.53/87	Belgian francs	4.9600/50
	4.9600/50	French francs	1723.6/8.6
	1723.6/8.6	Italian lire	88.79/89
	88.79/89	Japanese yen	7.2200/00
	7.2200/00	Swedish crowns	6.2420/70
	6.2420/70	Norwegian crowns	5.5930/80
	5.5930/80		
One sterling	\$1.5828/38		
One ounce of gold	\$382.85/383.25		

Seles attacker goes on retrial

HAMBURG (AP) — Nearly two years after he plunged a kitchen knife into the back of Monica Seles and put her tennis career on hold, the assailant went on trial again Tuesday.

This time, prosecutors and Seles' lawyer hope Guenter Parche will receive a tougher sentence than the probation he got at the end of his first trial in October 1993.

Both the prosecutors and Seles, who was a co-plaintiff in the case, appealed against the lenient two-year suspended sentence.

The prosecutors have taken the case to a higher court. Germany's judicial system allows prosecutors to retry cases if they are unhappy with a lower court's sentence.

Seles, who is not required to testify, stayed away from Parche's first trial and is not expected to show up this time either, according to her lawyer, Gerhard Strate. Her father may come next week to testify, however, Strate said.

Parche, 40, stabbed Seles in the back on April 30, 1993, while she sat on a bench during a changeover of her quarterfinal match at a tournament in Hamburg.

During the trial, he described his obsessive love for Steffi Graf, at the time Seles' greatest rival. Parche said he didn't want to kill Seles, only to disable her long enough for Graf to regain the No. 1 ranking.

Graf did, while Seles was eventually dropped from rankings because of her inactivity. Following a long injury break, Graf has ceded the No. 1 ranking to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

"I hope there is a different outcome this time than a suspended sentence," Graf told German reporters in Key Biscayne, Florida, where she is playing at a tournament. She had condemned the attack and the leniency of Parche's sentence.

The suspended two-year sentence outraged Seles and many other tennis stars. The attack brought bodyguards onto tennis courts as a regular security feature.

The judge who sentenced Parche, Elke Bosse, received death threats after the sentencing. Another judge, Gertraud Goering, is chairing the retrial.

In a separate suit, Seles' lawyers are seeking at least \$10 million in damages from the German Tennis Federation. At the time of the attack, Seles was the undisputed queen of women's tennis, the No. 1 with eight Grand Slam titles and nearly \$7.5 million in career earnings.

The 2-centimetre deep wound left by Parche's knife healed quickly, but the attack apparently had deeper psychological effects.

Although Seles reportedly is practicing, she has set no date for her comeback. All rumours dates have passed without her appearing.

Now 21, Seles has not been much in the public eye since the attack. Born in former Yugoslavia, she has become a U.S. citizen.

Last May, her father, Karolj, said his daughter "has not been able to overcome the emotional impact of the knife attack, which continues to be a problem for her."

He said the attack "interrupted her tennis career and her daily life."

While she is suing the German Tennis Federation for lack of sufficient security at the Hamburg Tournament, the Italian sports apparel firm FILA is suing Seles for not honoring a contract to promote a line of clothing.

Seles' lawyer said he hoped to convince the court to convict Parche of attempted murder or attempted manslaughter. "Otherwise I would not be appealing. The leniency of the sentence was not the only factor that made me appeal," Strate said.

Parche, who lives in Goersbach, in Eastern Germany, and holds no steady job, was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm.

The maximum sentence is five years, but Parche could have been sentenced to three years and nine months because of diminished responsibility.

In handing down a suspended sentence, Judge Bosse said she had taken into account a psychiatrist's testimony that Parche had a "highly abnormal personality" and that he had shown remorse for his attack.

Tyson set for Saturday morning release Ex-champ won in boxing but lost in life

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Mike Tyson found glory in a boxing ring but has rarely known happiness outside one.

Tyson will be released from an Indianapolis Prison here Saturday after serving three years for the 1991 rape of a beauty pageant contestant, the most extreme act in a cycle of violence and crime that grew with Tyson into manhood.

Heavyweight boxing has stagnated since Tyson's imprisonment, so promoters and dozens of fighters are waiting in line for a chance to be one of Tyson's first foes in his planned comeback bid.

Tyson was paid \$70 million in a pro career that has seen him compile a 41-1 record. He might get that much for his first fight after prison.

Champion. Hoodlum. Rapist. Victim. Take your pick. Tyson has been all of these in his 28 years. As easily as he dominated heavyweight boxing, so too did Tyson make the mistakes

that led to his rape conviction three years ago.

Tyson was a violent youth who became a teen in a New York state correctional facility. There he was found by Cus D'Amato, who helped make Floyd Patterson into a heavyweight champion.

The elderly boxing trainer became Tyson's legal guardian in 1984 but died of pneumonia the following year.

It would not be last time Tyson's heart was broken.

Tyson assured his place in boxing history on Nov. 22, 1986, when he knocked out Trevor Berbick in the second round to win the World Boxing Council title and became the youngest heavyweight champion ever.

Four months later, Tyson won the World Boxing Association crown with a decision over James Smith, a boxer nicknamed "Bonecrusher" who spent 12 rounds avoiding a knockout blow by grabbing his foe.

Tyson then beat Tony Tucker in August of 1987 to

claim the International Boxing Federation title and begin an undisputed 2½-year reign of the heavyweight division.

Life appeared wonderful outside the ring as well. Charges Tyson tried to kiss a woman and struck a man in a parking lot were settled out of court. And in early 1988, Tyson married actress Robin Givens.

Tyson was at the pinnacle of his glory. It was all too brief.

Four months after Tyson's marriage, Givens and her mother said Tyson had physically abused his new bride. Three months after that, Givens told a U.S. national television audience Tyson was a manic depressive while the fighter sat beside her calmly.

Two days later, Givens and her mother fled after Tyson began throwing furniture around their home in a furious rage.

Exactly eight months after the wedding, Givens filed for

divorce. They were divorced in the Dominican Republic on Valentine's Day in 1989.

The toll of Tyson's personal life came out in other ways. Tyson broke his hand in a street fight with boxer Mitch Green and drove his luxury car into a tree. He sued manager Bill Cayton to break his contract and later signed a deal with Don King.

But he remained unbeaten in the ring until Feb. 11, 1991. On that night in Tokyo, a weary-looking Tyson suffered the only loss of his professional career when overwhelming underdog James "Buster" Douglas knocked him out in the 10th round. It was a stunning blow from which boxing in many ways has not yet recovered.

Tyson won four more fights before coming here to judge the Miss Black America beauty pageant. After a rehearsal, he and Washington went back to the beauty queen's hotel room.

Jazireh's team leaves for Cyprus today JBF announces postponement of women's championships

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's former women's basketball champions Al Jazireh Wednesday leave Amman for Larnaca, Cyprus, to take part in a regional competition organized by Cypriot club Kefalovrysos.

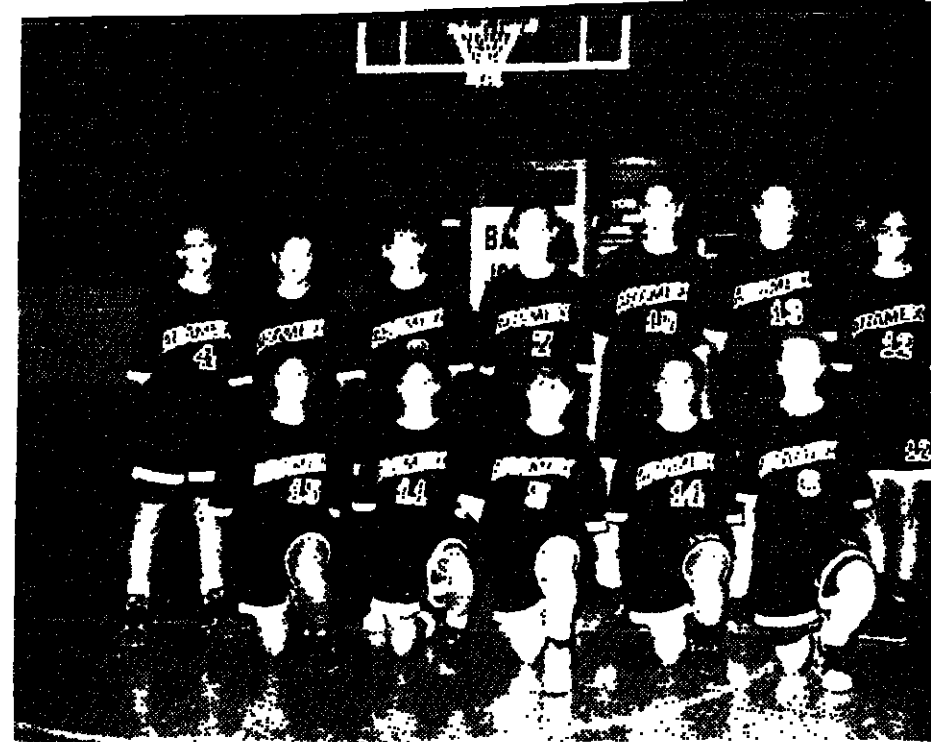
Al Jazireh will be facing rigid competition from experienced teams as they face Kalyrnios of Greece, Syria's runners up Al Jala', and their hosts in the week-long event dedicated to the memory of the Cypriot team's hometown, Kythrea, in the now occupied northern part of the island.

Although Jordan's reigning champions Al Orthodoxi as well as Lebanese champions Homenmen and the Catholic Action Club of Bethlehem declined the invitation to play, the four-team tournament is expected to be highly competitive and will add much experience to Al Jazireh's lineup playing in a foreign country for the first time.

The team includes Rana Hussein, Rania Al Dajani, Tamara Al Khadra, Tala Al Mauge, Suhair Makusi, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Dima Shadid, Maryam Ta'ani, Hala Ghattas, Suhair Makusi, Dalia Muheisen, Muna Darwazah, and Ghada Sabaneh.

Al Jazireh are quite familiar with the form of the participating teams: Kefalovrysos have recently moved from fifth to third in their country's championship and have two professional players on the team, while the Greek Club is a second division team but are probably a strong contender for the title.

Syria's Al Jala' have a 3-0 record over Al Jazireh. They beat them twice in Aleppo 53-28 and 67-46, and again 51-46 in Amman in Al Jazireh's international tournament in July '94 in which Al Jala' and Kefalov-



Al Jazireh's team

rysos participated along-side hosts Al Jazireh, a select team from the occupied territories and Lebanon's Homenmen who won the title.

In a departure statement, Jazireh's head coach Fadi Al Sabbah said his team had much to gain from such a competition and said he hoped the event would give a good indication to their preparedness as they get ready to face titleholders Al Orthodoxi in this year's championship which was scheduled for mid-April.

Al Orthodoxi are also preparing for the competition and their team will soon have a series of matches in Syria.

However, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Tuesday announced that the women's championship was being postponed to a later date. Informed sources told the Jordan Times that most of the season's events which were announced earlier this year were being rescheduled in order to best pre-

pare the youths' Under-18 team for the World Championship in July.

The announcement came as a surprise to all concerned as teams have been preparing for quite some time and Al Jazireh and Orthodoxi's friendly matches in Cyprus and Syria intend to put the finishing touches on their tactics and form.

Jazireh's coach said he was surprised and upset the JBF had decided to postpone the championship.

"We put down plans, including the visit to Cyprus now, in accordance with the JBF's schedule. I'm surprised at their announcement," Sabbah Tuesday told the Jordan Times.

Sabbah sounded confident saying his team were ready to win back their crown this year. "I'm hopeful we can score a 20 point win over all teams," he added.

Al Jazireh, had joined the women's competition in 1991 finishing last, then

moved to third place in 1992 before scoring a major upset over all-time champions Al Orthodoxi to clinch the title in 1993. However they lost their title when they opted to pull out of the competition in 1994 and Al Orthodoxi regained their crown.

Sabbah, who is also head coach of the women's national team said the postponement also hurt their preparations.

"We had put the national team's practice on hold throughout the past six weeks so as players could best prepare with their respective clubs. Now, the postponement neither serves the clubs nor the national team."

The women's national team is scheduled to participate in the Asian Championship in July. The team was regrouped two months ago and an initial line-up of 20 players were training three times a week before practice was halted so as players would join their club teams.

Spurs without Rodman dump Sonics

SAN ANTONIO (R) — J.R. Reid, filling in for the injured Dennis Rodman, had 13 points and 11 rebounds and keyed a decisive third-quarter run as the San Antonio Spurs extended their winning streak to four games with a 104-96 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics on Monday.

David Robinson added 24 points and 10 rebounds and Chuck Person had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who have won 14 of their last 16 games.

"Seattle's team were going to be neck-and-neck with down the stretch," said Robinson, whose team moved 1½ games ahead of the SuperSonics in the Western Conference.

San Antonio more than compensated for the absence of Rodman, the league's leading rebounder who was placed on the injured list prior to the game following a motorcycle accident on Sunday.

In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored 14 of his career-high 35 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Atlanta Hawks to a 106-102 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Clippers led 83-78 heading into the fourth quarter, but Atlanta began the final period with a 10-0 run, sparked by seven points by Blaylock.

Los Angeles stormed back to take a 92-91 lead on a



New Jersey Nets Derrick Coleman (left) goes in for a layup past New York Knicks Charles Smith (AFP photo)

three-pointer by Pooh Richardson with 5:26 left, but the Hawks reeled off six straight points, taking the lead for good on a layup by Blaylock with 5:02 remaining.

"I don't think anybody ever had a lead that they could call comfortable," said Clippers coach Bill Fitch. Fourth quarter, we just did a terrible job trying to put the ball in the hole."

Steve Smith scored 19

points for Atlanta.

In Cleveland, Jamal Mashburn's layup with 2.4 seconds left in the second overtime lifted the Dallas Mavericks to a 102-100 triumph over the stumbling Cleveland Cavaliers.

Mashburn, who scored 16 of his 28 points in the extra sessions, hit a three-pointer to knot the game at 100-100 with 45 seconds remaining in the second overtime.

Jason Kidd had 20 points

and Roy Tarpley added 14 for Dallas, which won for the fourth time in five games.

Tyrone Hill scored 39 points, all in regulation, for Cleveland, which has lost nine of its last 12 games.

In Sacramento, Walt Williams made a layup with 2.4 seconds left to lift the Sacramento Kings to a 91-89 victory over the Denver Nuggets and into sole possession of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

With the score tied 89-89, Williams took an inbound pass and went right to the baseline for the basket that gave Sacramento the lead.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, who led Denver with 21 points, had a 30-footer at the buzzer bounce off the back rim.

RESULTS

Atlanta	106	La Clippers	102
Dallas	102	Cleveland	100 (2nd OT)
San Antonio	104	Seattle	96
Sacramento	91	Denver	89

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAN HERSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. appeals for \$183m for Iraq

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations appealed on Tuesday for \$183 million to help suffering Iraqi civilians. More than 50 donor countries were meeting in Geneva to study the appeal, which includes funding for 81 U.N. guards who patrol three northern protected zones where Kurds live. The closed-door talks come a day after Turkey carried out raids against Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq. A one-year U.N. programme, beginning on April 1, will finance food aid, as well as health, water and sanitation services, education, agricultural support, shelter and resettlement of internally displaced families.

Kuwait premier slams political squabbles

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's prime minister said disputes about marginal issues were disrupting domestic politics and his government might resign if this continued, newspapers reported on Tuesday. Al-Sayess and sister paper the English-language Arab Times reported government sources as saying Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told a cabinet meeting political infighting diverted national attention from major issues. He told the meeting on Monday members of parliament and news media had indulged in debate on "marginal and unimportant things," the newspapers reported the sources as saying.

Jews sentenced for Jerusalem attack

TEL AVIV (R) — Four teenage Jewish militants were sentenced Tuesday to prison terms ranging from five to 15 years for carrying out a deadly grenade attack in Jerusalem. A 60-year-old Palestinian was killed and eight were wounded when the grenade was thrown in November 1992, into a crowd of Arab shoppers in Jerusalem's walled Old City. The four defendants, all supporters of anti-Arab group Kahane Chai, left the Jerusalem district court smiling and handcuffed Tuesday as supporters met them with cheers. The names of the defendants were not made public because they were minors at the time of the grenade attack.

Morocco battles locust invasion

RABAT (R) — Morocco on Tuesday said it was battling a locust invasion with swarms covering more than 3,000 hectares in the southwestern provinces of Tata, Guelmim and Errachidia. "Anti-locust units have already treated more than 3,000 hectares," an Agriculture Ministry official said. The swarms came from neighbouring Mauritania, he added. The last major locust invasion suffered by Morocco was in 1988, when the insects ravaged crops at the fertile Souss Valley.

Dubai to use 'copters to stop illegals

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Dubai has ordered five advanced Italian patrol helicopters to stop illegal immigration by Asians and others searching for jobs in the oil-rich Gulf emirate, defence sources said on Tuesday. Augusta, one of the biggest helicopter makers in Italy, has won the deal to supply three A109 K2 helicopters and two AB 412s to the Dubai police, an Augusta statement said. The first one would be delivered in November while the rest would arrive within a year. The statement did not mention the deal's value but military sources close to the company estimated it at between \$15 million and \$20 million.

2 Bank of England official quits over scandal

LONDON (AFP) — The deputy governor of Bank of England resigned Tuesday, dogged by reports about a love affair that included trysts with his mistress in the bank. Rupert Pennant-Rea had for two days sought to hang onto his job after the Sunday Mirror disclosed his affair with Irish-American journalist Mary Ellen Synon, stirring a feeding frenzy among Britain's tabloid newspapers. They relished in details of sex on the floor of the private dressing room of Bank of England Governor Eddie George as well as a Bank of England cheque that Mr. Pennant-Rea purported made out as "pay to: M.E. Lots of Love." It was signed as "Roo," her nickname for the deputy governor. By Tuesday, Mr. Pennant-Rea decided to give up the fight.

Yemen gets a Total deal from France

PARIS (AFP) — French oil group Total and the Yemen government signed an agreement on Tuesday confirming the choice of Total as the leader of a liquefied natural gas project in Yemen, the oil group announced on Tuesday. It said the deal, signed in accordance with a Yemen cabinet decision made on Feb. 22, lays down the main economic and contractual framework for the project. It will be followed by the drafting and signature of a final contract settling all questions involved in carrying out the project. The consortium will make investments estimated at about \$3 billion to develop a capacity of five million tonnes a year of liquefied natural gas.

Peace process demotivates Israeli recruits

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has noted that new recruits to operational units are less motivated than in the past and blamed the peace process, Israel Radio said Tuesday. Colonel Gadi Amir, who led an army behavioural science department study of students about to join the ranks last year, urged the creation of a committee to deal with the problem. "The symptoms exist since 1992," the radio quoted Col. Amir as saying. "This tendency is not new but corresponds to the changing political and social situation in Israel," said Colonel Moshe Even Chen, a former head of the department. "Youngsters are less willing to take risks and prefer to have the quietest possible time during military service," he told the radio. "In Israel, as in the rest of the Western world, society has become more individualist, less marked by values or ideology." A military official told AFP that a "slight drop in motivation of future recruits was recorded in 1994." But he said it was not significant.

Name of Israeli spy chief on Internet

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The name of the chief of Israel's internal intelligence agency Shin Beth — a state secret — is available on the world-wide Internet computer network, a magazine reported Tuesday. Publication of the name is banned by Israel's military censorship bureau. The Jerusalem Report said his name and address appeared on an Internet message in mid-March. "Mazel tov (congratulations) to the new head of the Shabak," the message reads, referring to the Hebrew acronym for Shin Beth. It went on to identify the man from Jerusalem, son of a well-known family of lawyers, and suggest users send him letters of congratulation. In Israel, the censors allow him to be identified only as "K."

Qatar closes schools because of rain

DOHA (AFP) — In colder climes, schoolchildren sometimes get to enjoy snow days. In this desert country, record rainfall Tuesday forced the government to close schools for a second time in 10 days. The capital city of Doha received 50.3 millimetres of rain overnight. The previous highest rainfall was in 1962 when the city received 43 millimetres of rain in a single day. The authorities also closed schools March 13 when this country of less than 500,000 people was lashed by heavy thunder storms. Qatar and its neighbours on the Arabian Peninsula are among the most arid places in the world more accustomed to drought than deluge. Because of the scarcity of rain, roads in these countries are not equipped with surface drainage and water quickly collects on roadways.

Minister promises to help solve Al Bilad problem

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A government minister on Tuesday promised a group of journalists, who staged a sit-in in front of the prime minister's office demanding the republication of Al Bilad newspaper, to help solve the issue. Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzidine told the Jordan Times he would discuss the issue with Prime Minister Sherif Zeid Bin Shaker as "soon as possible" to help solve "not only a legal problem but also a livelihood one."

Around 30 journalists and employees of Al Bilad demonstrated in front of the Prime Ministry at the Fourth Circle but were dispersed by policemen, policemen on the scene said.

According to Nayef Tawarah, Al Bilad's publisher, Mr. Izzidine met with four protesters, all employees at Al Bilad, and promised them to resolve the problem within 24 hours.

"He (Mr. Izzidine) is a democratic man, but we've been receiving promises from all sides for a long time," said Mr. Tawarah. "The government is trying to lead us to bankruptcy to make the newspaper stop publication on its own."

Mr. Tawarah said that he had given all the employees at Al Bilad an open leave after he paid them their full salaries for the past month during which the newspaper was not issued. He said the newspaper has lost up to JD 48,000 since its suspension on Feb. 26.

The suspension took effect after Director of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin sent a letter to Al Bilad and another weekly, Hawadeth Al Sahal, in which he asked them "to rectify their situation in accordance with the Press Association law."

In the letter, Mr. Amin said the chief editors of the two weeklies were not full JPA members since they did not take the oath, specified in the law. He offered the newspapers publishers to stop publication until the two chief editors take the oath or fully certified editors were appointed.

Mr. Izzidine said "there is a problem but it is strictly up to minister of information (Khaled Al Karaki) to resolve it." While Al Bilad employees informed him that they have fulfilled all legal requirements, Mr. Izzidine said that the final say would be with Dr. Karaki.

"I will convey their views to the prime minister as soon as possible, but it is in the hands of the minister of information. He is the one to solve the problem," Mr. Tawarah and Riad Al Hroub, publisher of Hawadeth Al Sahal, told the Jordan Times that the Press and Publications Department has rejected the names of their new nominees for the posts of chief editors for different reasons.

"We're trying to solve it diplomatically, but for a long time we've been hearing unfulfilled promises," Mr. Al Tawarah said.

Experts stress need to define clear role for Palestinian NGOs

By Rama Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants at a two-day conference entitled "Development in the Middle East: Canada and the Middle East: building sustainable partnership" on Tuesday stressed that Palestinian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) must have a new role under the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The participants, representing Canadian and Arab NGOs, also stressed that cooperation between the Palestinian and Canadian NGOs is important for future financial support for the Palestinian NGOs.

Gabriel Lachance of the Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace said that since 1993, the social and economical situation started deteriorating in Gaza while the PNA was focusing on political issues "more than the economic issues."

"The Palestinian NGOs need to set their priorities and become more responsible because their role will increase and become more important in the future," Dr. Lachance stressed, adding that "we need to work on setting our priorities with the Palestinian NGOs, taking



KARAMEH REMEMBERED: His Majesty King celebrations held on Tuesday to mark the Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the anniversary of the 1968 battle of Karameh (see Jordanian Armed Forces, arrives at the site of page 3)

Turkish forces move deep into Iraq; 200 said dead or injured

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Turkish troops on Tuesday pushed deeper into northern Iraq on the second day of a massive assault on Kurdish rebel camps. At least 200 rebels and eight soldiers were killed, officials said.

In Turkey's biggest military offensive ever, troops wiped out a major rebel base in Iraq's Bote region — where Turkey, Iran and Iraq converge, state television said.

The report said Turkish troops, armed with mortars, were 40 kilometres inside northern Iraq. They crossed Monday at four points along a 220-kilometre section of the border.

The troops were targeting rebel camps where some 2,800 Turkish Kurdish guerrillas are believed to be based. The government says the camps are used to launch hit-and-run attacks against

Turkey. General Hassan Kundakci told reporters in the Turkish town of Silopi, where he is commanding the operation, that the army was zeroing in on 20 camps. Rebels offered resistance in three, prompting fierce fighting, he said.

Defence Minister Mehmet Golhan told parliament that 200 rebels had been killed so far.

At least eight soldiers were killed and 11 wounded, military spokesman Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu told reporters here.

Jetfighters resumed their bombardment at dawn and flew 10 sorties, dropping 60 bombs, he added. The operation included 35,000 troops.

"It is the largest operation ever, including the Cyprus operation," government spokesman Yildirim Aktuna said in reference to Turkey's 1974 invasion of the island.

About 10,000 troops were involved in then.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said the operation would continue until all Kurdish rebel bases were wiped out.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Monday he understood Turkey's "need to deal decisively with PKK terrorism" but urged Ankara to limit the scope of the operation.

France condemned the Turkish offensive saying that the operation violated Iraq's territorial integrity and democratic principles.

"Turkey, as a member of the Council of Europe, a partner of the European Union and a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, has to respect the basic principles of human rights, democracy and the right to self-defence," said Foreign Minister Alain Juppé.

(Continued on page 7)

Talibans retake territory from government troops

MOHAMMAD AGHA, Afghanistan (AFP) — The Taliban army of students launched a successful counter-attack against President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces south of Kabul, witnesses said Tuesday.

After a series of strategic defeats, the Taliban won back some of the territory lost to Mr. Rabbani's forces at the weekend.

The presidential army was pushed back 10 kilometres from their southern frontlines near the town of Mohammad Agha, some 35 kilometres from the capital.

"We launched our attack yesterday afternoon and killed seven of the enemy," Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Rabbani told AFP.

The Taliban suffered a strategic defeat at the weekend when it lost its strategic base at Charasayab in the southern districts. The Taliban, who had earlier

been forced back from the edge of Kabul, are now out of rocket-firing range of Kabul which is now entirely controlled by Mr. Rabbani.

The losses had suggested that the dramatic rise of the Taliban movement has been ended. In a few months the religious students took 10 provinces and moved to the edge of Kabul.

An AFP correspondent met a lightly armed Taliban patrol at a checkpoint on the main road close to the Logar district centre of Mohammad Agha, which Monday was in the hands of pro-Rabbani troops.

The so-called "religious students" had not yet advanced to occupy the former Rabbani defensive line along which some 15 tanks were parked Monday.

The new frontline, where tanks had regrouped and troops were seen digging bunkers, was on a ridge just six kilometres south.

Amman rally marks massacre anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour on Tuesday stressed that there could be no real peace in the Middle East without the restoration of all Arab rights.

In an address delivered at a public rally organised by the National Committee for the Support of the Palestinian Peoples in Hebron to mark the first anniversary of the Ibrahim Mosque massacre in which more than 30 Palestinians were killed, Mr. Srour said the Arab Nation was needed peace after long years of killing and deprivation.

He said the Ibrahim Mosque martyrs and those who were killed before them "remind us of the need to get to a unified stand to preserve the remainder of Arab blood."

Senator Kamel Al Sharif, in an address to the rally, lauded His Majesty King Hussein's support of the

Jordan welcomes release of journalist

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday welcomed news of the release of a Jordanian journalist who was detained by Serb forces last month.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti thanked his American, French and Russian counterparts and the United Nations Secretary General for the release of Nahrwand Shana'at, who was held by Serb forces on Feb. 21, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Ms. Nahrwand 24, who holds Bosnian and Jordanian nationality, was being held in the Serb-controlled suburb of Iidza after being detained at a road checkpoint near Sarajevo airport.

She and an Egyptian reporter were being driven by two U.N. military observers from the airport to the Bosnian government-held city centre when Bosnian Serb soldiers stopped the vehicle.

The two U.N. observers, one of whom was Egyptian, and the Egyptian journalist were freed after about three hours.

Ms. Shana'at's family in Jordan told the Jordan Times that the Bosnian media reported that she was freed two weeks ago while she was still detained.

Her mother, Saneyyeh Shana'at, who works at the Meteorology Department in Jordan, said that at the time of arrest, Nahrwand had in her possession a Bosnian passport, some photos of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a royal ring that was a gift from the Crown Prince.

According to Al Doustour newspaper, Ms. Shana'at was released in exchange for a Serb prisoner.

During her detention, her parents and relatives were not allowed to visit her.

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GIA threatens other groups as Algerian violence rages

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Armed extremists shot dead the boss of a video company that makes news programmes, Al Boukerbache, a former journalist, early Tuesday, Algerian security officials announced.

Boukerbache, 53, was murdered in his car in an eastern suburb of the capital Algiers as he was driving to work, officials said in a statement.

On Monday, suspected Muslim fundamentalists shot dead Houria Hammadi, a woman who worked as a secretary at a television station, and seriously wounded her sister Rachida, one of Algeria's top television journalists, security officials said.

Twenty-nine journalists have been assassinated since armed Islamic groups began a guerrilla war against the secular, army-backed regime early in 1992 and others have been injured or had narrow escapes.

The armed groups accuse journalists of collaborating with the regime, but as of Tuesday no one had claimed responsibility for the recent murders.

In another development, the national institute of hygiene and safety in the southwest Algiers suburb of Saoula was razed to the

ground by fundamentalists overnight Sunday, the daily Al Watan reported Tuesday. The gang set fire to administrative buildings and destroyed teaching materials and the library, which contained numerous works of major scientific value.

The Saoula district is considered to be an operational zone for the head of the country's most radical extremist movement, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is accused of being behind an intensified recent terror campaign targeting teachers, other working women and schoolgirls.

Several higher education establishments and almost 700 schools have been set ablaze or ransacked in attacks blamed on fundamentalists who oppose education, especially for women, on the grounds that it is, they say, contrary to strict Islamic sharia law.

In a statement published on Tuesday, the GIA threatened to attack members of other Islamic groups, declaring that it alone carried the "banner of the Jihad (holy war)."

"The unification of our ranks is coming to an end," said the statement.

Bardot urges boycott of Canada, Norway over seals

PARIS (R) — Film star Brigitte Bardot called Monday for a worldwide boycott of Canada and Norway in protest at their decisions to allow seal hunting this year.

"It's shameful, it's simply unacceptable, it's barbaric," she said. "I'm ashamed to be a Canadian or Norwegian." She urged a boycott of Canadian and Norwegian products as well as a halt to tourism to both countries.

Ms. Bardot also went to the Norwegian and Canadian embassies to express her views to diplomats. As she met officials inside the embassies, several dozen supporters surrounded their cars, chanting "assassins."

Norway has announced it will allow resumption of the hunting of baby seals, stopped in 1989 after film of hunters wielding clubs sparked worldwide condemnation. It said the killing of pups would be for scientific purposes.

Canada said up to 2,600 seals would be killed to study nutrition and growth of pups and to determine whether they were as efficient a killing method as the traditional seal hunt. Canada said it was expanding its east coast seal hunt this year by allowing killing with a game lion and putting a bounty on the animals.

Professional writer wins 1-Day Novel Cup

LONDON (R) — A professional novelist dashed the hopes of amateur rivals when he won the second World One-Day Novel Cup Monday with his semi-autobiographical tale of boyhood in Belfast during the Northern Ireland "troubles".

Pat Gray, a 41-year-old lecturer in politics, wrote "The Political Map Of The He" in two gruelling 12-hour stretches last weekend.

London's Granchio Club, favourite haunt of British media and literary elite, feels absolutely brilliant," he said after science fiction writer Terry Pratchett handed him a silver cup, a cheque of £500 (\$795) and the winner's novel bound in hardcover.

"I'd been suffering from writer's block and couldn't get that story out for a number of years," he said. "I think what the hell to say, after that I just did it and I never lost the thread."

The novel, which was published in 36 hours, Gray has had 55 other works published, including a vicar and explosives expert. "It's thoughtful, reflective, very strong on atmosphere and colour," said event organiser Rowland Morgan. "It's the astonishing capacity certain writers to produce consummate work against tight deadline."

Australian police hunt tickling burglar

MELBOURNE (R) — Australian police are hunting a man who breaks into homes and tickles children's ears. Senior detective K. Broad told Reuters the burglar has struck times since October, breaking into houses in area around Bendigo in state of Victoria.

He enters through windows or doors and never said anything to the children and never anything," Ms. Broad said.

Robinson Hood on sapling planted in U.N. grounds

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A sapling from Robinson Hood, an 800-year-old oak associated with the English outlaw of Sherwood Forest, was planted in grounds of United Nations Headquarters Monday.

British Ambassador David Hannay, the money was among the first day of spring in northern hemisphere, attended by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General of the World Bank, and other officials.

Mr. Annan said the tree was planted in memory of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, which was founded 25 years ago to foster peace for the planet and its inhabitants.

Several higher education establishments and almost 700 schools have been set ablaze or ransacked in attacks blamed on fundamentalists who oppose education, especially for women, on the grounds that it is, they say, contrary to strict Islamic sharia law.

In a statement published on Tuesday, the GIA threatened to attack members of other Islamic groups, declaring that it alone carried the "banner of the Jihad (holy war)."

"The unification of our ranks is coming to an end," said the statement.

In another development, the national institute of hygiene and safety in the southwest Algiers suburb of Saoula was razed to the

ground by fundamentalists overnight Sunday, the daily Al Watan reported Tuesday. The gang set fire to administrative buildings and destroyed teaching materials and the library, which contained numerous works of major scientific value.

The Saoula district is considered to be an operational zone for the head of the country's most radical extremist movement, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is accused of being behind an intensified recent terror campaign targeting teachers, other working women and schoolgirls.

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